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SOCIALIST PROPOSALS WOULD ALREADY HAVE CUT FORCES BY 300,000

LD291239Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Dec 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[A. Grigoryants commentary: "Up to the West"]

[Text] The talks in Vienna's Hofburg Palace have been going on for more than 5 years, and there is still no result. Why?

Since the first session the delegations of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have done everything to reach agreement on reducing military tension in central Europe, where it is particularly dangerous. It is here that the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact countries and the North Atlantic alliance confront one another directly and significant arsenals of weapons are stockpiled. Seeking to reduce the level of military confrontation in Europe and to consolidate the process of detente, the socialist countries have shown the greatest possible goodwill, patience and constructive efforts. Their proposals have proceeded on the basis of the generally acknowledged fact that an approximately equal correlation exists in the numerical strength of Warsaw Pact and NATO armed forces in the center of the continent. That is why reductions must be carried out so as to insure that neither side's security suffers. If the West had accepted the socialist states' proposals from the first, by now, in 1978, there would be 300,000 fewer officers and men on both sides of the dividing line in Europe. But the West has rejected all the socialist countries' initiatives.

Operating with fabricated figures on the alleged "significant superiority" of the Warsaw Pact armed forces, Western diplomats have stubbornly insisted on an "asymmetrical" reduction. NATO circles have backed up the demand to eliminate the imaginary "disproportion" with highly dubious arguments. The West German magazine DER STERN, for instance, writes that NATO leaders are resorting to falsified figures and downright forgery. To prove the socialist countries' mythical threefold superiority in tanks, the magazine writes, NATO leaders add up all the tanks that have been in these countries' armies since the end of the war, including tanks long written off as obsolete. Embarking on an unworthy "numbers game," the Western participants obstinately reiterate that the Warsaw Pact troops have a numerical superiority of approximately 150,000 men. They needed this ruse to seek one-sided advantages for themselves.

The socialist countries submitted important new proposals on 8 June 1978. These contain agreements to establish equal collective levels of numerical strength for the two blocs' armed forces in the region--900,000 each, including 700,000 ground forces each; to confine the reduction of armed forces to ground forces and to carry out a selective reduction and limitation of armaments, in accordance with the Western side's wishes (for instance, a reduction in the number of U.S. nuclear warheads in exchange for the reduction of a certain number of Soviet tanks).

As the Warsaw Pact declaration says, these proposals cover all the problems under discussion and insure equality between the sides' armed forces while substantially lowering their levels by comparison with the present. Moreover, last 30 November the socialist countries proposed that the numerical strength of the armed forces of the states participating directly not be increased during the Vienna talks. Objective Western commentators acknowledge that the Warsaw Pact countries have met their partners halfway on a whole series of important points. The socialist countries have merely confirmed by this their sincere desire to reduce the military confrontation in Europe and to consolidate detente.

Now the ball is in the West's court.

PRAVDA EDITORIAL ARTICLE ON SOFIA CONFERENCE

LD291512Y Moscow Tass International Service in Russian 0730 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Today's PRAVDA publishes under the heading "An Important Landmark in the Life of Communists" an editorial article devoted to the results of the recent international theoretical conference in Sofia. Follows the complete text of the article:

An event has occurred in the life of the international communist movement that is of great ideological and political significance: the international theoretical conference on "The Building of Socialism and Communism and Developments in the World," which took place 12-15 December in Sofia and was organized by the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Central Committee together with the editorial council of the periodical PROBLEMY MIRA I SOTSIALIZMA.

International theoretical conferences have for a long time been firmly established in the practice of cooperation between communist and workers parties. On the one hand, this evidences the growing significance of the Marxist-Leninist theory in public development, and on the other, the striving of the fraternal parties to delve, by common efforts, deeper into the nature of new phenomena in order to improve their strategy and tactics.

It stands to reason that each party will draw its own conclusions from the discussion in which its representatives took part. In our view, the Sofia conference differs in many respects from most international theoretical conferences hitherto.

First, let us note the theme of the conference. It encompasses in substance the key problems of our time. In the speeches and discussions there dominated the idea that it is impossible to understand a single major international and social problem of our time, not to mention their mutual relationship, without taking into account, accurately and fully, the objective place of real socialism in the world.

Second, the significance of the conference was evident from the fact that distinguished representatives of the communist movement took part in the discussion of the problems raised; in fact, 73 delegations in all participated. Of these, 21 delegations were headed by general and first secretaries, and 37 by members and candidate members of Politburos and secretaries of Central Committees. This lent extra political weight to all debates and to the conclusions drawn during the discussion.

Finally, the significance of the Sofia conference is determined by the powerful desire of an overwhelming majority of the fraternal parties, which became apparent during the proceedings, for active collaboration, broad internationalist cooperation, mutual action and coordination of efforts. It goes without saying that the conference itself was a step forward, above all with respect to cooperation in theory and ideology at the same time its sessions widely proclaimed the unity of the world's communists and their solidarity, bearing in mind particularly the nature and specific features of the contemporary situation.

What then were the main lines of the discussions at Sofia?

A central position in the work of the conference was occupied by the most burning and urgent problem at the root of our time: war and peace.

The CPSU foreign policy line is well known. "To do everything to curb the arms race," Comrade Brezhnev has said, "to strengthen the peace and security of the peoples--this is what we see as the basic task of our foreign policy."

Having described from all angles the principal objective features of real socialism, those participating in the conference showed that it is precisely this which is the main support of the struggle for peace throughout the world and for averting a new world war.

Speakers made a wide-ranging analysis of various aspects of real socialism's role in supporting and strengthening peace. This role was described as decisive for the fate of mankind. In this connection, the desire of communists from all regions of the world to strengthen solidarity with real socialism in the cause of deepening detente and strengthening peaceful coexistence was expressed.

It is extremely important that the fact that success in the struggle for peace is dependent on strengthening the positions of world socialism and extending the solidarity of all detachments of revolutionary and peace-loving forces with it was seen not in a general abstract form but as being closely allied with current international events and topical issues on the political agenda.

Participants in the conference showed that in the contemporary situation there is similar danger both in the thesis being put about to the effect that there is no military threat from imperialism, and also in the thesis of the "inevitability of world war" being preached by the Peking leaders, who are blatantly inciting the imperialist forces to wreck detente and further escalate the arms race.

The speech by the head of the Soviet delegation Ponomarev, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, plainly showed that communists, while not regarding war as inevitable, soberly assess the real facts--such as the latest decisions by the NATO aggressive imperialist bloc, the raising of military budgets by the capitalist states, and the development and deployment of new types and systems of weapons. The systematic falsification of the Soviet Union's foreign policy and the dissemination of the "Soviet threat" myth have a direct political purpose: to cover up the arms race being pursued by the NATO countries and their desire to attain military superiority. In these conditions, the conference noted, the socialist countries are forced to take appropriate measures to strengthen their defensive capability, while at the same time bending all their efforts to halting the arms race. With their might, their sociopolitical and ideological unity, their patriotism and the internationalism of their peoples, the socialist countries bar the way to the aggressive urges of imperialism. They see this as their duty to all mankind.

The implementation of proposals made at the Moscow conference of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee will provide the material force necessary to influence the course of history, CPUSA General Secretary Gus Hall said.

Those taking part in the conference gave high appraisal to the consistent and principled foreign policy of the Soviet Union and the socialist community countries in the struggle for peace and detente. "In the present situation, as always, when issues of war and peace are being solved, we communists say: 'Follow the example of the countries of real socialism,'" Chairman of the German Communist Party H. Mies said.

The anti-Marxist positions and hegemonistic big-power aspirations of the Chinese leadership, as well as its activities in the world arena endangering the cause of peace, were decisively exposed in the speeches of most delegates at the conference. It was noted with indignation that the Chinese leaders had raised preparation for war to the level of state politics.

Another theme that predominated at the conference was the contribution of real socialism to the struggle for democracy, and for securing democratic rights and freedoms for mankind.

Participants in the conference spoke with great clarity of the main advantages of socialist democracy. Delegates from the CPSU and other fraternal parties from the countries of socialism--Bulgaria, the GDR, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and others--showed with specific examples their countries successes in securing such fundamental human rights as the right to work, education, health care, housing, active and real participation in public affairs, all of which are unattainable under capitalism.

Participants in the conference approached this problem from the Marxist-Leninist position. The development of socialism is an objective historical process. No one says that socialism has reached the limits of its development, has been through all the stages, has solved all problems, has overcome all difficulties and shortcomings. As First Secretary of the BCP Central Committee, Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria T. Zhivkov noted, the essential thing is that socialism has pulled society out of the captivity of economic catastrophes and social inequality, and that it has safeguarded a speedy growth in the national economy and an unswerving rise in the well-being of the people. It has liberated the masses from spiritual and political bondage and has involved them in free and creative social creativity. What is most important is that it is realizing a democracy of a principally new type, socialist democracy which not only proclaims but really guarantees to the people the widest rights, creates the conditions for a massive and most active participation by workers in diverse forms and at various levels of social government [upravleniye].

The slanderous imperialist propaganda campaigns which are being conducted in socialist countries under the false banner of "defense of human rights" were given a firm and argued rebuff at the conference. Several speakers said that these campaigns are aimed not only against real socialism but also against communists and all progressive forces in countries of the nonsocialist world.

It was stated during the discussions that currently there can be no creative development of revolutionary theory without a study and summing-up of the experience of socialist countries---the experience of the victorious struggle to create a new society. "Marxism-Leninism", said General Secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party A. Cunhal, "is constantly enriched by the ceaseless struggle of the masses and their vanguard--the communist and workers parties of the whole world. And in this sense contributions to the treasure-trove of Marxism-Leninism is the common, collect cause of the entire world communist movement."

The role of Leninism as the Marxism of our era was particularly stressed by participants in the conference. Conceptions aimed at reducing the general significance and vitality of Lenin's teachings were subjected to a fundamental criticism. There are some, said R. Arismendi, first secretary of the Uruguayan Communist Party Central Committee, who would wish to belittle the role of Leninism, stating that it was a theory relating to a particular period of development or of importance only to the peoples of underdeveloped countries, that it was "simply another of those many other tendencies emanating from the basis of Marxism." Such an approach to the development of the theory of scientific socialism is not creativity--it is regression, a sliding back to the attitude of social-democratism.

Obviously, other countries that embark on the path of socialism will add their practical experience to the process of its building, and will enrich the theory and practice of the new social order. But one cannot regard it as a natural course--and this was convincingly reiterated at the conference--when the more effective forms and methods of moving forward to socialism are sought not by means of overcoming the actual capitalist reality with all its faults and contradictions, but by means of unjustified attacks on real socialism, in unison with the propaganda of the class enemy. Criticism of class brothers in the socialist countries, who in a difficult struggle have already achieved much, and will do even more, can only disorient the masses and weaken the common pressure of all revolutionary forces on imperialism.

The delegations of communists from the FRG, the United States, Portugal, Greece, Argentina, Uruguay, India, Syria and other countries showed that the attempts to distort the idea of real socialism, its internal and foreign policies are one of the main aims of the ideological and political strategies of imperialism. To slip into this course is unseemly for real fighters for revolutionary changes in society.

A great part in the discussions was taken up by the issue of the significance of the socialist countries, their solid activities for the national liberation of peoples.

In many speeches it was said that the existence and successful development of the socialist community is a favorable circumstance for the revolutionary victories over imperialism achieved by the peoples of Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, Angola, Ethiopia, the PDRY, Afghanistan and other countries. This was mainly spoken of by S. Viera, the member of the chief of command of PRELIMO, Mozambique, who pointed out that the internationalist solidarity of the socialist countries enabled the effective blocking of aggressive activities by imperialism against Angola, Ethiopia and other states.

One sign that the movement of more and more millions of people to socialism is invincible is the fact that a number of the liberated countries are embarking upon a course of basic social changes. They are striving in order that freedom may bring their peoples real fruits, and because of this are orienting themselves toward socialism. The characteristic developed from the practical experience of socialist orientation was exhibited at the conference. The participants in the conference supported the proposal by the CPSU delegation on holding a theoretical discussion on this issue.

Great attention was accorded by participants in the conference to various aspects of the influence of real socialism on social processes occurring in the world. It was said that the main influence is through its successes in economic building in the development of the new social order itself. These successes enable the supremacy of socialism to be demonstrated even more widely, and give a stimulus and a criteria to the struggle of the working people of the capitalist countries for their rights and freedom. In a number of speeches it was pointed out that the strengthening of the positions of socialism aids the dissemination of socialist ideas.

It is quite natural that in examining the role of real socialism the speakers often turned to the question of understanding the principles of proletarian internationalism. It was pointed out that internationalist solidarity finds its practical embodiment in the daily struggle of the world communist movement. Its spearhead is the mutual support given by the peoples of the socialist countries to the revolutionary progressive forces in the nonsocialist parts of the world.

Important manifestations of internationalist solidarity are, as was stated at the conference, the international meetings of representatives of the fraternal parties at various levels and about various urgent problems.

The Sofia conference took place at a time when on the world scene events of enormous significance are occurring, when the ideological and political struggle has sharpened in connection with this, and new inescapable and complex tasks face the communist movement. The dominant opinion of participants in the conference is that it has made a weighty contribution to the analysis of the processes occurring in the world, which is very important for solving these tasks.

Naturally, some separate delegations expressed their own particular opinion in some issues, which PRAVDA reported in its correspondence from Sofia. A comradely and frank discussion was held on a number of problems. However, on the questions under discussion, on the whole extensive unity on the principled positions of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism was exhibited.

All this determined the obvious success of the conference and made it one of the most significant forums of communists in recent years. It will occupy an important place in the development of theoretical Marxist thinking, in the unfolding of internationalist, unified actions in the name of achieving the great aims of democracy, the national liberation movement and socialism. The materials of the conference deserve serious attention and study by communists, and all fighters for the cause of the working class, the basic interests of the people of the world.

'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION--QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS'

LD300030Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

["International Situation--Questions and Answers" program, presented by Valeriy Kosovan, all-union radio foreign political commentator; with Nikolay Shishlin, international affairs journalist; Aleksandr Bovin, IZVESTIYA political observer; Juan Cobo, international affairs journalist and deputy editor in chief of LATINSKAYA AMERIKA; and Lev Strzhizhovskiy, international affairs journalist]

[Excerpts] [Kosovan] Good day, dear comrades. We are meeting for the last time this year. I would like to wish you good health, success and most importantly a lasting and stable peace. In the outgoing year, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have applied considerable effort towards achieving this. The problem of limiting and stopping the arms race was the central issue of their foreign policy activity. We have asked Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin, international affairs journalist, to examine the practical results that have been achieved in this direction.

Disarmament Issues

[Shishlin] Many major problems of the present day--such as the accelerated development of liberated countries, the mastering of new energy resources, protection of the environment and many others--would look completely different if the arms race could be stopped and military spending could be transferred to the aims of peaceful construction.

In the past year as a whole, according to various calculations, a sum of \$400 billion has been spent in the world on the arms race. The arms race is an obstacle to the establishment of relations of trust between countries with different social systems. The logic of political detente demands the obligatory supplement of military detente. Without this, the rhythm and tempo of the detente process could be slowed down, as we have seen more than once.

There are for the Soviet Union as for other socialist states, purely national reasons for striving to solve the task of stopping the arms race, since stopping the arms race would immediately produce a huge economic saving, allowing a whole number of big economic problems to be posed and solved faster than is presently possible.

[Kosovan] But one must say frankly that the path toward purely one-sided disarmament is blocked. At the Political Consultative Committee conference of the Warsaw Pact held in November, it was clearly demonstrated that quite serious and alarming phenomena, associated above all with the arms race in the West, and the West's desire to secure military superiority over the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, still exist.

[Shishlin] And this conclusion was literally confirmed 2 weeks later by the decisions of the Brussels session of the NATO Council at foreign minister level. In Brussels, the NATO men were once again working out new plans for accelerating the arms race and making arrangements for an annual increase of 3 percent in military budgets. And this was, with adjustment for inflation, a true calculation for real military increases. In these conditions, it is perfectly obvious that any movement forward in the direction of limiting and stopping the arms race is possible only with observance--strict observance--of the principle of equal security for the sides, and if this movement is positively simultaneous.

This is the position adhered to by the Soviet Union, as by its friends, at all the talks held on solving this problem.

And one must say that there is no shortage of talks on the problem of limiting and stopping the arms race. Perhaps of key significance here are the SALT talks, which are now 6 years old. But this year, as perhaps never before, we can say, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, that the contours of the agreement are in essence clearly outlined. And the prospects for working out a mutually acceptable agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive weapons are fully realistic.

It is no accident that political observers throughout the world already are trying to guess when the signature will be finally placed on this very important agreement, giving the green light for the next round of SALT talks and opening up other broad possibilities for the solution of this truly burning and pressing problem.

In the outgoing year, there has also been certain movement in the Vienna talks, even though it would be true to say that the movement is from one side only--from the side of the socialist countries. The socialist countries took into consideration the position of the Western participants at the talks and put forward very big proposals last summer. But there has been no constructive response to these proposals as yet. In any case, when NATO's foreign ministers met in Brussels, discussion arose once more about the fact that the quantity of the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact and NATO must be established before reviewing the proposals put forward by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries specifically.

The numerical strength of the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact and that of the NATO armed forces have long been no secret. All the figures were put on the table at the Vienna talks and the fact that NATO is now casting doubt on the figures mentioned by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries is not suspicion but simply a political maneuver aimed at delaying an answer to the proposals and at trying to drag out progress in the solution of problems associated with reduction of armed forces and arms in central Europe.

[Kosovan] This, by the way, merely proves once more the whole fallacy of the myth of the Soviet threat, which, as everyone knows, is constantly being evoked in the West.

[Shishlin] While we're on the subject, this myth is being fed to a large extent by a real fact. Some time ago--several years ago--the West genuinely had a substantial military superiority over the socialist countries in a number of significant areas. And it is precisely the loss of this superiority and the emergence of obvious parity in armed forces--an equality of forces--which has most disturbed the West in 1978 with regard to solving the problems connected with disarmament.

The store of practical solutions for limiting the arms race in a number of areas is being supplemented by a number of agreements and, no less importantly, by a number of major and valuable ideas. In particular, we should mention the proposal made by the socialist countries with regard to the possibility of holding talks among the five nuclear powers aimed at destroying nuclear arsenals and using atomic energy for peaceful purposes only. This is a very bold proposal, and one which should there be a positive response, would open up opportunities to remove the most dangerous weapon from the world's arsenals.

In this way, if one looks closely at what happened last year and at what we are bringing with us to the coming year, it must be said that the legacy of 1978 contains several valuable items. Unfortunately, this legacy also contains many open, complicated and unresolved problems.

But also important is the fact that these problems in and of themselves, and the approaches to their solution, have already been outlined to a considerable extent by the Soviet initiatives we witnessed at the UN General Assembly this year, and which we witnessed in a number of major and important speeches by Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. And we must note that these valuable ideas and the outlines of the solutions for the problems of disarmament have received very authoritative support in the decisions of the Warsaw Pact. All this provides the prerequisites necessary to make 1979 richer than the outgoing year with regard to finding practical solutions to the problems connected with disarmament.

U.S.-PRC Normalization

[Kosovan] The next issue has to do with the normalization of U.S.-Chinese relations. What is the meaning of this political action? What consequences might it have for the alignment of forces in Asia? How can one evaluate this move from the viewpoint of Soviet interests? We have asked Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich Bovin, IZVESTIYA political observer, to answer.

[Bovin] I think that the decision by Peking and Washington to establish diplomatic relations beginning 1 January is one of the most important political events in the outgoing year. All in all, if one analyzes this step on the basis of major historical-political categories, then everyone will understand that such a decision was natural and inevitable, and that it would have come about sooner or later anyway. Indeed, it seemed to be a glaring anomaly that in our times--times of peaceful coexistence, detente and active international cooperation--these two powers, occupying such a marked place in world politics, did not have normal relations. And if one diverts one's attention from politically concrete definitions, then one can say that the normalization of U.S.-Chinese relations lies in the mainstream of the development of world events. As for the time and date, frankly speaking, it was not expected so quickly.

[Kosovan] To all intents and purposes, the problem of the normalization of relations between the PRC and the United States has been with us for more than 6 years already--ever since Nixon visited Peking in 1972.

[Bovin] Yes, generally speaking this is true. All this was begun as long ago as 1972. But there was a very serious obstacle in this process. This was the matter of Taiwan. The Chinese imposed three conditions on the United States: First, break diplomatic relations with Taipei; second, abrogate the treaty on defense with Taiwan; and third, withdraw all American servicemen from the island. Well, I was of the impression that Washington, in principle, has long been preparing to accept these conditions. But, for their part, the Americans insisted that Peking officially renounce any possibility of forcibly annexing Taiwan to China, that is, that they would guarantee, legally, the security of Taiwan. Peking did not agree to make such a statement. And for a long time the sides were unable to get out of this deadlock.

[Kosovan] Then how did they manage to do this?

[Bovin] Well, as always happens in similar cases, through compromise. Compromise is the air in which politics breathes. The Chinese have not given any official promise at present that they will not seize Taiwan, but a so-called "tacit mutual understanding" has been reached to the effect that they will not use force.

This, in any case, is how the Americans interpret the situation. In this, one can note that silence in this instance suits Peking fully for they have no real chance to annex Taiwan either now or in the foreseeable future. For their part, the Americans have agreed to break off diplomatic relations with Taipei, to remove their servicemen from the island and to annul the defense treaty. But, and this is highly important, Washington has reserved for itself the right to retain political, economic and other ties with Taiwan.

And the main thing, that this same tacit mutual understanding has achieved is that the United States will continue to supply arms and military equipment to Taiwan. It is also typical that the American 7th Fleet, which now patrols the Taiwan Straits, will continue to do this, and thus virtually shield Taiwan from mainland China. These are the features of the compromise that has opened the way for normalizing relations between China and the United States.

[Kosovan] Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich, how do you explain the fact that both Peking and Washington forced the talks in such a manner?

[Bovin] In my view, a number of economic and political factors operated. The economic reasons are more or less straightforward and understandable. Both sides are interested in developing mutual trade. The Chinese, who have embarked on the accelerated modernization of the country, need American know-how and technology. And the Americans, who are being pressed on the foreign markets by both Japan and West Europe, need the Chinese market. This is understandable. The political aspect of the problem, however, is more complex.

The clearly expressed anti-Soviet direction of Peking's foreign policy line is of decisive importance here. And in prevailing conditions, Peking decided to force the talks in order to try to use the American card to strengthen its political influence in the world and in order to--as is stated in the communique of the CCP Central Committee's third plenum--extend the international united front of struggle against hegemonism. It is understandable that in this connection Peking will do its utmost to prevent an improvement in Soviet-American relations. As for the United States, its position is sufficiently ambiguous. On the one hand, the White House assures us, persistently, that normalization of Chinese-American relations is in no way directed against the Soviet Union. On the other hand, the temptation is, of course, great and the Americans will hardly refrain from trying to use the Chinese card in some matters to pressure our country. This is how I see the whole thing. Strategically, the American leaders understand that a worsening in Soviet-American relations cannot be compensated for by an improvement in Chinese-American relations. And, therefore, I find it difficult to assume that they will go in for a coalition with China which is aimed broadly against the USSR. Practically, the Americans will undoubtedly regard the normalization as a factor strengthening their position in talks with the Soviet Union.

As far as I understand it, however, our government is not inclined to dramatize the situation here. One must see how and where matters proceed. It is understandable that the establishment of diplomatic relations between the PRC and the United States strengthens America's political presence in Asia. It also stands to reason that, having normalized its relations with Washington, Peking is getting fresh opportunities for influencing world politics. However, the Soviet Union has sufficient firm positions and sufficient levers to neutralize the possibly negative consequences of Peking and Washington's maneuvers.

Bolivian Situation

[Kosovan] A little over a month has now elapsed since the coup in Bolivia. How does the situation in Bolivia look now?

[Cobo] Freedom of action by the political parties is now permitted in the country, as well as by trade unions and public organizations. Not a single political prisoner is left in the prisons. Elections are to be held on the first Sunday of next July. The president-elect then will take up his post in August. For the time being, the head of state is Gen David Padilla, formerly commander in chief of the army, one of the leaders of the operation for the overthrow of Pereda Asbun. The change of power has been carried through with the support, the resolute support, of the people, by military men from among the so-called constitutionalists, including David Padilla, and younger and more leftwing colleagues from the movement Villaroel generation. This movement made itself known back in 1973, demanding greater peoples participation in running the state, conducting a policy of safeguarding national resources and against dependence on the imperialist monopolies. These young soldiers hold such important posts as the ministries of internal affairs, labor and peasants affairs. The present Government of Bolivia has normal relations with the opposition, which has helped to make the internal political situation more healthy.

There are also difficulties. It could not be otherwise. The new commander in chief of the army was recently dismissed. The present course is opposed by representatives of the employers' circles, who dream of Banzer returning to the post of president. The struggle continues. From the foreign policy point of view, the situation is also complex. Washington did not object to the turn of events in La Paz, since it had long been urging the establishment of a civilian form of rule there and the more far-seeing politicians in the White House understand that attempts to preserve the status quo in Bolivia could lead to an explosion like that in Nicaragua and they are choosing the lesser of two evils, from their point of view.

I should like to say in conclusion that the Bolivian events are just one more example showing that the advance of rightwing authoritarian and fascist regimes in Latin America, which began stormily in 1973, has been halted and is on the wane. These regimes have not been able to establish themselves. In one form or another they have all turned out [word indistinct]. And this is one of the positive factors in the present year's balance sheet in the Western Hemisphere.

European Monetary System

[Kosovan] I now present another participant in the program, international affairs journalist Lev Fedorovich Strzhizhovskiy. In front of me I have letters with questions about the European Monetary System. Radio listeners (Ivanchev) from Gorkovskaya Oblast, (Leskov) from Novosibirsk, (Glukhov) from Smolensk and (Nilin) from Petrozavodsk ask about the reasons which forced the Common Market to create this system.

[Strzhizhovskiy] In order to answer this question one must recall what has been happening with the American dollar recently. The main currency of the capitalist world is dangerously ill. The reason for the sickness is the excessive military expenditure of the United States, which now comes to \$128 billion, and also the constantly growing trade balance deficit. In conditions of inflation and chronic unemployment the Carter administration is trying to solve its problems at the expense of other capitalist countries.

The dollar has become an instrument of the economic war. In its artificial decline on world exchanges it is pushing out the currencies of other countries, its chief trade competitors. So as to avoid even bigger losses other banks have begun to buy up the depreciated dollars. Suffice it to say that, for instance, the FRG Federal Bank has only recently bought up almost \$23 billion. On the whole, a fantastic quantity of so-called Eurodollars is moving about on world currency exchange markets. They number about 600 billion.

[Kosovan] The Treaty of Rome which founded the Common Market did not plan to establish a unified currency union until 1980. What has brought on this haste?

[Strzhizhovskiy] This is the result of the same dollar sickness. Western Europe was quite simply forced to look for an answer, for the weapons in the struggle against its enemy. It was then that the FRG, together with France, proposed creation of a so-called European stability zone. The intention was to create a system in which the currencies of the states associated in the system would fluctuate not independently but each linked to the others. This ought, in the opinion of the authors, to protect the West European countries from the ruinous consequences of dollar speculation and increase the strength of Western Europe in the competitive struggle against the United States of America.

[Kosovan] And what lies behind the fact that West Germany and France orchestrated the new project?

[Strzhizhovskiy] To be precise, the FRG has long been toying with the idea of a currency union. The paymaster of Western Europe, as the FRG is often called, is particularly interested in Common Market affairs. Suffice it to say that half the total exported production of the FRG is sold precisely here, in Western Europe; and every fifth worker in the country is connected in one way or another with production for export. It is worth recalling that a mini-currency union has been in existence and has operated within the Common Market for a long time--the so-called currency snake. The West German mark, which not so much supports as powerfully holds the allies in its iron grip, forms the basis of the snake.

[Kosovan] One must assume that France was promised certain support in the new currency system.

[Strzhizhovskiy] Giscard d'Estaing put it this way: The European Monetary System will arouse confidence, and capital investment accompanies confidence and this is a condition for improving the situation in employment. Now this is very important for France. The project of the two great Europeans--as the press christened Helmut Schmidt and Giscard d'Estaing--was discussed at summit level in Western Europe. During the meeting of the heads of the leading capitalist states in Bonn they briefed President Carter on the proposal, who, as subsequent events showed, disapproved of it greatly.

Three countries--Britain, Italy and Ireland--originally refused to join the new currency project. They all have their own accounts with the Common Market. However, given the diversity of their specific (?claims), they were frightened off by the too narrow currency rate fluctuation limits. Having taken these commitments upon themselves the countries would have been unable to operate on the exchanges in their own interests and this would have reduced the competitiveness, which is low anyway, of their goods. Apart from this, the suggested compensation for the cost of joining the system did not seem enough.

[Kosovan] Nevertheless, the (?rebellion) [word indistinct] turned out to be short-lived.

[Strzhizhovskiy] Yes, at first Italy, and then Ireland too, sided with the new project. So far only Britain is holding out but for it there is yet another debatable issue. Remember the list of issues on which the British oppose the Common Market--from the fishing zone to the distribution of income from North Sea oil. In addition, the Laborites are preparing for elections and are justifiably afraid of a negative reaction from the electorate to the creation of a new monetary system. For what is good for the monopolies obviously does not suit the ordinary workers. It stands to reason that none of its members would quarrel (?openly) with [word indistinct] masters of the Common Market. As a result of preliminary consultations a plan has been agreed on for creating a European Monetary System.

[Kosovan] What is it?

[Strzhizhovskiy] Eight countries, members of the Common Market, have agreed to create a European Monetary System to allow their own economies to grow and as protection from international currency upheavals. National currencies are allowed to fluctuate in relation to one another only within narrow limits amounting to 2.25 percent. So as to establish links between one another the states which are members of the system will pool part of their reserves to create support funds to the tune of \$33 billion. The European Monetary System will replace the present European snake. A proposal will be made to other countries on the continent--such as Norway, a snake member--to become associated members of the system even though they are not part of the Common Market.

[Kosovan] This automatically raises the question of why only eight countries out of nine signed the monetary agreement in Brussels.

[Strzhizhovskiy] The secret lies in the fact that Carter adopted measures to curb inflation. This stopped the fall in the dollar exchange rate just when the creation of the European Monetary System was reaching its climax and sharply reduced the Nine's fears regarding the devaluation of the American currency. On Christmas Eve a West German newspaper allowed itself the following joke regarding the European Monetary System, which comes into operation from 1 January: A sign above a spot in the Christmas tree market said: This is the last time in your life that you are buying your own Christmas tree with your own money. Next year, it will be European money and a European Christmas tree. No one knows exactly what it is.

Presenting the future European Monetary System in this way, the newspaper expressed of course the opinion of the man in the street. For it goes without saying that West European monopolies, who direct the Common Market, understand full well what advantages they will reap from the new system.

Here is what France's L'HUMANITE writes:

The European Monetary System is already being designated to increase further strict economy measures and accelerate the closure of enterprises considered unprofitable. For the working class, the newspaper stresses, this will lead to new difficulties and a growth in unemployment.

WEST RESPONSIBLE FOR SPIRALLING ARMS RACE

LD291521Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Article by political commentator Yuriy Zhukov: "The Basis Is Equal Security"]

[Text] "The continuation and intensification of the arms race and its increasing pace and scale are the chief threat to peace and international security, the relaxation of international tension, the peoples independence and their economic and social development." (from the Warsaw Pact states' declaration).

By a UN General Assembly decision, the seventies have been proclaimed the decade of disarmament. During this time much has been done to resolve this task, chiefly thanks to the efforts of the USSR, the fraternal socialist countries and all the world's peace-loving forces. A number of multilateral and bilateral arms limitation treaties have been signed and are being fulfilled. The international climate has improved--the signing by 35 heads of state of the Final Act of the all-European conference, which was convened at the socialist states' initiative, was of special significance in this.

Why then is mankind still forced to spend more than \$1 billion a day on military preparations? Why are 22 million soldiers still under arms and 60 million people, in all, connected with military activity? Why is 40 percent of all spending on scientific research and development still used for military purposes?

The Warsaw Pact Moscow declaration gives a direct and clear reply to these burning questions: The most aggressive circles of imperialism, which are reluctant to reconcile themselves to the changed correlation of forces in the world arena, bear the responsibility for the continuation and intensification of the arms race. They dislike the principle of equality and equal security, which alone can insure the successful resolution of the task of reducing arms and armed forces.

This is why these circles are striving to upset at any cost the present equilibrium in military strength between the capitalist world and the socialist world, to make a new spurt in the arms race and to forge ahead at all costs.

Let us recall how events developed after World War II. The Soviet Union and the fraternal countries proposed every time that state refrain from adopting a further military novelty, starting with the atom bomb. But when the United States failed to agree to this and began nuclear blackmail diplomacy, Moscow declared: Well then, we too will have nuclear weapons and much besides. The gamble on nuclear blackmail did not come off.

This was repeated many times--this was the case with ICBM's, MIRV's, nuclear-powered submarines and many other types of arms, each one more costly than the last. Again and again the Soviet Union and the fraternal socialist countries proposed not taking the matter as far as a new spiral of the arms race. But when faced with a fait accompli, they showed concern for their own security and equalized the correlation of forces. This parity was preserved as the result of a new spiral in the arms race.

But the Pentagon in no way wishes to reconcile itself to this parity. Numerous information "leaks" to the press, which are skillfully organized to indoctrinate public opinion, about more and more new types of weapons that the United States and its allies are preparing to put into production, herald inevitable appropriations of more and more tens of billions of dollars for the sake of realizing the same old dream of "superiority." Publicity is being given to the Trident submarine which costs more than \$1 billion each, the new XM-1 tank costing \$1.4 million each, ray weapons, on whose development, according to the New York TIMES, the Defense Department has spent \$1 billion over the past 10 years, radiological weapons, the neutron bomb and so forth.

And all this to the selfsame refrain every time: Of course it will cost a great deal, but what can we do? We must save ourselves from the "Soviet threat...."

The "hawks" are impatient. They frequently return to the question of what use they could make of superiority if they succeed in achieving it. [paragraph continues]

The New York TIMES and the Washington STAR, for example, reported 2 and 4 December that "supporters of a change in strategic policy have made it understood in a number of interviews that they are seeking to place new emphasis on the ability to wage a limited (?) nuclear war with Moscow."

The style is florid, but the sense is quite clear, particularly as the New York TIMES has specified that "the very development of a number of new types of weapons can obviously give the United States potential for waging war" and that "for FY 1980 the Pentagon will seek funds to improve the means of communication necessary for making a strategic strike." The Washington STAR has written in turn that it is a question of "readiness to wage an extensive war, not just to prevent it."

The organization of those who support an unlimited arms race, which bombastically calls itself the "American Security Council" (it is a member of the notorious "Coalition for Peace Through Strength"), soon proclaimed in Washington a "nationwide campaign" of struggle against any nuclear arms limitation whatever.

These dangerous ventures stemming, as American newspapers declare, from "a group set up by the military scientific council attached to the Defense Department" shed more light on the persistence with which the U.S. representatives at the recent NATO Council session sought--and secured: their allies' consent to set up the AWACS aerial espionage system costing approximately \$2 billion. Thus aircraft will day and night "survey" with the help of radio-electronic apparatus everything happening 400 km behind the line of the socialist states' borders. Furthermore, as AFP reported 5 December, "in wartime" these aircraft will become "airborne command posts" which will issue orders to ground forces (France, as is known, has refused to join this system).

At the same time, repeating fabrications about the imaginery "Soviet threat," representatives of Western power are insisting once again that the USSR and its allies unilaterally reduce their armed forces and arms.

Comrade L. I. Brezhnev declared in his 5 December Kremlin speech that the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries consistently advocate limiting and curtailing the arms race and proceeding to disarmament, but that the solution to this problem can be found only on a mutual basis.

"Of course," he said, "if the socialist countries embarked on a path of unilateral disarmament and allowed the imperialists to achieve the position of superior strength they so desire, this would be a disservice to peace.

"I repeat: We are prepared for the most radical steps leading to disarmament. But the principle of the sides' equal security must be observed at all stages of the struggle to achieve that goal. We will not agree to weaken our defense in the face of imperialism's growing military might, whatever demagogic arguments might be used to cover up the calls for this. That would have irreparable consequences for the cause of socialism and the peoples freedom and independence."

The words of our party and state leader produced the proper impression abroad.

Many people in capitalist countries are starting to wonder what will happen now. The consequences of the arms race are growing increasingly serious there, since the military-industrial complex, which makes fabulous profits out of this race, is producing increasingly expensive lethal output. According to AFP, military spending totals \$425 a year per capita in the United States, for example. And this spending is growing continuously--it is planned to increase 3 percent a year.

The result is obvious: Inflation is growing, the dollar is sliding, spending on public health and other social needs is falling, and millions of people are out of work. And now economists are promising the United States, as NEWSWEEK wrote recently, "the likelihood of zero growth" in 1979 and, "at worst, an actual slump."

The spurious slogan "Don't touch the war that feeds you!"--invented by the military-industrial complex at the time of the American aggression in Vietnam--is losing its influence. Even workers in the U.S. military industry are coming to the conclusion that in the final analysis the arms race is also having a pernicious effect on them in a material respect, not to mention the catastrophe that could result from military output being put to use.

It is no accident that the movement to end the arms race is once again gathering momentum everywhere, including the United States. Fewer and fewer people believe the old wives' tales about the imaginary "Soviet threat." Even the New York TIMES, which made such a great effort to propagandize that malicious fabrication, recently carried an article by its political commentator James Reston entitled "The Present Danger." Polemizing with the "hawks" P. Nitze and E. Rostow of the so-called "Committee on the Present Danger," he wrote: "There are other people in America who are equally devoted to the cause of insuring the country's security and who respect Nitze and Rostow but are firmly convinced that the 'present danger' lies not so much in the threat of Soviet aggression as in inflation and the undermining of confidence in the dollar and in control over the American economy."

Reston cites a statement by President Lincoln in 1837: "Whence are we to expect danger? To this I reply: If such danger ever threatens us, it will arise in our own midst and cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, this means that we ourselves will be our own gravedigger and executioner."

These strong words from Lincoln, who, like certain other U.S. presidents, was fated to die by an assassin's hand, are very topical today.

So what, nonetheless, will happen now? A great deal depends not only on the United States but also on its allies. The Warsaw Pact declaration opens wide the doors to an agreement on removing the main danger to peace--ending the arms race. The eight-point program set out in that document is realistic and mutually advantageous. As it states, "The greatest wisdom today lies not in whipping up the arms race and increasing the danger of nuclear catastrophe, but in freeing mankind from the threat of a new war." This urgent task can be resolved only on the sole realistic basis--the principle of equality and equal security.

Any attempt to upset the existing parity, to forge ahead and secure the way to domination over others is doomed to failure. It will lead merely to the empty waste of new tens of billions of dollars and to a new increase in international tension.

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U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
UNITED STATES

B 1

MOSCOW NOTES OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. -PRC RELATIONS

LD011208Y Moscow World Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] The United States and China have officially established their diplomatic relations as of today, 1st January, with the opening of embassies in the capitals of both countries on 1st March. Last month the Soviet news agency TASS reported about a telegram of reply by President Brezhnev to President Carter over the issue.

'Dual Reaction' Cited

LD011908Y Moscow World Service in English 1400 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] China and the United States have established diplomatic relations as of today. In a message on the occasion to Peking, the secretary of state, Cyrus Vance expressed the view that this step will be instrumental for strengthening peace and stability in Asia and throughout the world. The report on the normalization of relations between China and the United States has caused a dual reaction in the world. On the one hand, the United States decision has been welcomed since the establishment of normal relations between states as a natural thing. On the other hand, it has stirred apprehensions, since, as is known, Peking is pursuing the policy of hegemony and territorial claims to neighboring countries. Peking leaders will undoubtedly do their best to use rapprochement with the United States for its goals of adventure.

ZORIN: WEALTH HAS NOT MADE AMERICANS HAPPIER

LD311801Y Moscow in English to North America 0000 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD

["Moscow Viewpoint" commentary by Valentin Zorin--read by announcer]

[Text] As the world moves into another year millions of people around the globe are wishing each other a Happy New Year. People differ in their understanding of happiness, but I'm sure that everyone, young and old alike and in every walk of life, must feel world peace is needed for true happiness. Who can be happy when guns are roaring and bombs exploding? Who can be happy if there is danger of a nuclear holocaust?

While in your country sometime ago, I was amazed at the scale of a campaign to persuade Americans the Soviet Union has aggressive plans that endanger America's security. Many of you have probably seen the TV documentary serial "The Unknown War." If you have, you must know what it cost the Soviet people to protect their freedom and independence when Nazi Germany invaded. Twenty million Soviet citizens lost their lives in that terrible war. Just stop to think: 20 million.

The war ended 30 years ago, but the wounds have not healed. The Soviet people have rebuilt the cities and towns that were razed to the ground. They have rebuilt the demolished factories and houses. It was a tremendous undertaking. It took much sacrifice. But to this day Soviet families mourn the loss of sons, fathers and brothers in that war.

So, just ask yourselves: How can a nation that paid such a high price for victory want another war?

The leaders of the Soviet Union belong largely to the generation that took a direct part in the war.

The Communist Party leader and president, Leonid Brezhnev, was with the army in the field as a soldier from the first day of the Nazi invasion to the last day of the war. Just ask yourselves: Can men who experienced the war firsthand be other than sincere, when they say they want to prevent another bloody tragedy?

I feel I have every right to say that no nation is more dedicated to peace, or more determined to prevent war than the Soviet. At the same time the Soviet people paid too high a price for their security to want to risk losing it.

Washington officials talk about America's security. The Soviet people have at least as much reason for being concerned about their country's security. It wasn't the Soviet Union that started the wild arms race. Every move it has made since the war to protect its security has been a response to threatening moves to the other side. Realistic-minded Americans recognize this.

In a recent issue of the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, the prominent political leader, Charles Yost, observed that a few years ago the United States suddenly began to equip its missiles with MIRVs under the illusion that this would give it some advantages. The Russians, he said, naturally followed suit and the result was the vulnerability of the Minuteman which the hawks complain about, though the hawks were once the rabid supporters of MIRVs. Mr Yost predicted that the cruise missiles might one day be more of a trace [as heard] to American cities than to areas in the heart of the Soviet Union. In view of this he suggested that before either side developed a new weapon, it should weigh the facts carefully and see whether the weapon would really ensure security or would boomerang. Charles Yost mentioned MIRVs and cruise missiles. He had good reason to speak of a boomerang. It was the attempts of the Pentagon after the war to secure military superiority that forced the Soviet Union to act to protect its security.

The Soviet menace is a myth, but the groups in America that still dream of military superiority need it to conceal their plans. It's no exaggeration to say that on New Year's Eve every Soviet family will drink to peace. The Soviet Union is ready to stop the arms race if the other side is also ready.

The U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT recently mentioned my TV [word indistinct] about American cities, and it complained that when I show America to Soviet viewers I say America has accumulated great wealth, but the wealth has not made Americans happier. I don't know whether you will agree with my conclusion, but I do know that many Americans I talked to when I was in your country some time ago, said I was perfectly correct. The wealth has not made Americans happier.

Let me add that in showing the Soviet public pictures of America I did not follow the example of some of my American colleagues who see nothing but the shortcomings of the Soviet Union. I showed America as it is with its great cities, fine architecture, and wonderful roads. But after studying the problems that face America and talking to many of its people, I came to the conclusion that the nation's wealth has not made every American happy. Even Americans who have their own homes and cars and all household conveniences made it clear to me that they feel that something more is needed for happiness. What? Well, confidence in the future. Trust in those who (?set) national policy. Good relations with other people. The U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT must think differently if it questions my conclusion. I leave it to you to be the judge. And now before closing let me wish all of you peace, prosperity and a full measure of happiness in the coming year.

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B 3

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES

MORE U.S.-USSR COOPERATION IN SPACE , SEISMOLOGY URGED

LD291932Y Moscow TASS in English 1748 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Washington, December 29, TASS--TASS correspondents Albert Bobikov and Viktor Borodin report:

Numerous representatives of the U.S. scientific world come out for an all-round expansion of cooperation with Soviet scientists, which, in their opinion, creates a reliable foundation for international progress in science and technology, helps the peoples of the United States and the Soviet Union to get to know and understand each other better.

We are very much satisfied with cooperation between the science academies of the USSR and the United States in 1978 and we believe that it was developing successfully, a TASS correspondent was told by Lawrence Mitchell, one of the leaders of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, director of the USSR and East-European nations department. He noted that particularly useful were exchanges of scientists in the sphere of sciences linked with space research, development of modern technology.

The possibilities of multiplying scientific relations and contacts between our countries, given the preservation and consolidation of a favourable international climate, are not limited, it was stressed by Lawrence Colin, chairman of the Mountain View Research Centre, California. The American scientists received with acknowledges the Soviet Union's readiness to exchange as fully as possible the data and results of the Venus studies. We are deeply convinced, he said, that the present joint Soviet-American efforts to study outer space will bring about the elaboration of new mutually advantageous, purposeful programs.

The American research seismologists admire the successes of the Soviet Union in forecasting accurately the intensity, epicentre and time of earth tremours, in the search for ways of preventing them, it was noted by the head of the seismology group at the Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, in Palisade, New York, Doctor David Simpson. A whole line of scientific research institutions of the United States are following attentively the works of Soviet scientists in this domain.

Specialists from our country were accorded the great honour of working jointly with Soviet seismologists in the area of the world's biggest Nurek hydraulic power plant, which is being built in the USSR. There are yet many long years of hard work ahead, David Simpson said. But even the initial results strengthen our confidence in the fruitfulness of the united efforts of our states in this difficult, but honourable endeavour.

MCGOVERN CONDEMNS PLANS TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR MISSILES

LD011348Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The U.S. Government's policy of increasing the Pentagon's budget and accelerating the creation of new types of strategic weapons is giving rise to profound anxiety on the part of clear-thinking Americans. The noted political figure Senator McGovern has condemned the plans being hatched by the U.S. brasshats to develop the latest missiles with nuclear warheads: the MX, Trident-2 and Pershing-2. He said that such steps by the Pentagon do not promote the improvement of Soviet-American relations and the world political climate.

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B 4

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES

REPORT ON MISSING URANIUM 'OBSTRUCTED' BY CIA, FBI

LD292312Y Moscow TASS in English 1945 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Washington, December 29, TASS--The CIA and the FBI are responsible for the concealment of facts, which could have shed light on the "mysterious disappearance" in the United States of a consignment of enriched uranium fit for atomic bomb manufacture, and which eventually turned up in Israel. This accusation has been made by John Dingell, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Energy of the American Congress. In a letter to the U.S. general controller, he pointed out that this information is contained in a report of the General Accounting Office, which investigated how the "missing" 206 pounds of nuclear explosives at the American uranium enterprises were sent to Israel where a nuclear weapons program is currently under way. John Dingell stressed that the CIA and the FBI were obstructing the investigation in every way possible, and upon its completion insisted that the entire report be classified. He demanded the report and all the relevant facts (be?) made public. CIA and FBI representatives said that their agencies were still against the publication of the report, because, they claim, (?it) contains "sensitive information."

ELLSBERG TRIAL EXPOSED MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

LD311320Y Moscow TASS in English 1139 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD

[Text] New York, December 31, TASS--The court of the city of Golden, Colorado, sentenced Daniel Ellsberg, a noted activist of the U.S. antiwar movement, and nine of his comrades to six months imprisonment suspended on charges of breaching the public order. Daniel Ellsberg was among 250 people arrested during a mass protest demonstration in the spring of this year in Rocky Flats where a plant for the production of components of nuclear weapons, including the neutron bomb, is situated. Over five thousand demonstrators demanded immediate closure of the plant, an end to the nuclear arms race, and cuts in the military budget.

The trial, according to the concept of its initiators, was to teach a lesson to the seditionaries. It turned, however into a severe exposure of the actions of the military-industrial complex and its placemen that are busy working up military psychosis and did not abandon the ominous plans of preparing a nuclear war. Daniel Ellsberg stated after the pronouncement of the sentence that prosecutions and repressions will not bully the American peace champions and that they will continue still more vigorously the struggle against the arms race.

PROTECTIONIST U.S. MEASURES HURT LDC'S, CANADA, JAPAN

LD291642Y Moscow TASS in English 1557 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Washington, December 29, TASS--President Carter signed a decree on raising customs duties on imported sugar. According to a statement of a representative of the Agriculture Department, the administration's decision will ensure "adequate" protection of U.S. [word indistinct] of this product against foreign competition. In other words, Washington's new discriminatory step is directed against a number of developing countries and also against Canada which is a major supplier of refined sugar to the United States. The U.S. Government recently adopted a decision to raise customs duties on imported bracing tackle used widely in different industries. The protectionist measure planned to operate for three years is directed, above all, against Japan which accounts for 75 per cent of these products put on the U.S. market. Suppliers from Canada, FRG, Italy, Spain and a number of other countries will also be affected.

PRC STATEMENT ON NANSHA ISLANDS ATTACKED

OW300236Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1400 GMT 29 Dec 78 OW

[Station observer Mulatov on 28 December PRC Foreign Ministry statement on sovereignty over the Nansha Islands]

[Text] The Nansha Islands consist of 96 small coral islands in an area of 5,000 square nautical miles west of the Philippines between Malaysia and Vietnam. Not long ago, rich oil deposits were discovered in these islands, which the Vietnamese consider their own. Totally ignoring Vietnam's sovereignty over the Nansha Islands, the Chinese Foreign Ministry categorically announced in its spokesman's statement that the Nansha Islands, as well as other islands in the South China Sea such as the Hsisha and Tungsha Islands, are all part of China's territory. This is not the first open Chinese great-nation chauvinist claim over this disputed area. Since the Chinese Navy's armed occupation of the Hsisha Islands in January 1974, Chinese newspapers and journals have carried background information on the more than 200 small Peking-occupied islands and shoals in the South China Sea.

At the same time, the Chinese side has also used sophistry in their own stand, saying that "China's navigators landed on these islands in ancient times." It should be mentioned that in April 1974 the patriotic forces of South Vietnam launched a victorious attack, liberating a number of islands in the Nansha group originally occupied by Nguyen Van Thieu's puppet troops. It should also be pointed out that until the patriots in South Vietnam liberated these islands from the puppet troops stationed there, the Chinese side never made any territorial claim. Therefore, the Chinese authorities' stand on this issue only proves that China's hegemonic demand is part of its strategy in the struggle between Peking and Socialist Vietnam to aggravate the situation in the South China Sea and throughout Southeast Asia.

COMMENTATOR ALLEGES CIA COOPERATION WITH PRC

OW271152Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1000 GMT 23 Dec 78 OW

[Barov commentary]

[Summary] A well-known U.S. expert in espionage activities wrote in a recently published book that the Central Intelligence Agency tried to poison Chou En-lai during the Bandung meeting in 1955. This historical fact has been made public at a time when Peking's attitude toward the CIA has radically changed.

The London DAILY TELEGRAPH reported at the end of October that James Lillery, CIA's China expert, toured China with U.S. Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger. When a reporter from that paper asked Chinese authorities for an explanation, he was told: "The CIA expert hopes to understand firsthand the changes that have taken place in China."

A British paper reported: "President Carter's principal foreign policy adviser thinks it possible to exchange (?intelligence) reports with China." It can be assumed that after the establishment of relations between Peking and Washington, there will be closer cooperation between the two countries' intelligence organizations. "It is now well known that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and Chinese secret service have been frequently engaged in secret activities together. For example, in Angola they jointly supported the National Front for the Liberation of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, two terrorist groups against the legitimate government." China has really changed in the 23 years since the Bandung meeting.

ALBANIAN PREMIER'S CRITICISM OF PRC CITED

LD291312Y Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The Albanian prime minister, Mehmet Shehu, has denounced the policy of pressure and blackmail pursued by the Chinese leaders against Vietnam. Mehmet Shehu was speaking in the National Assembly in connection with his reelection to this post. He said that the expansionist activities of the Chinese leaders in various parts of the world, their incitement for a third world war and close ties with aggressive blocs show that China has embarked on a dangerous road.

GOSPLAN CHAIRMAN RECEIVES BULGARIAN MINISTERS

LD291215Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--On 21 December N.K. Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosplan, received a Bulgarian delegation which is in Moscow, headed by B. Belchev, Bulgarian minister of finance, and Kh. Khristov, Bulgarian minister of foreign trade. Taking part in the talk were K.F. Katushev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and D. Zhulev, Bulgarian ambassador to the USSR.

SIGNING OF SOVIET-ROMANIAN 1979 TRADE PROTOCOL REPORTED

LD020905Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--A protocol on commodity turnover between the Soviet Union and Romania in 1979, outlining further growth in reciprocal deliveries between the two countries, was signed in Moscow on 26 December as the result of successfully concluded talks.

Metal-cutting machine tools, power, mining and ship equipment, road construction machines, trucks, passenger cars, aviation equipment, equipment for the chemical, textile, food and other sectors of industry and also the basic types of raw materials and supplies necessary to develop Romania's industry will be supplied to Romania from the USSR.

Romania will deliver to the USSR electrical engineering equipment, equipment for the oil-extracting industry, agricultural machines, freight cars, ships, chemical goods, timber, agricultural goods, consumer goods and other products.

CPSU'S ZIMYANIN, PZPR'S WERBLAN DISCUSS IDEOLOGICAL COOPERATION

LD281603Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--On 20 December M.V. Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received A. Werblan, secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, who is in Moscow.

Questions of scientific and ideological cooperation between the CPSU and the PZPR were discussed during the talk which passed in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

SUSLOV, PONOMAREV MEET WITH PORTUGUESE CP'S CUNHAL

LD291816Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1648 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 29 December, TASS--A meeting was held today in the CPSU Central Committee between Mikhail Suslov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Boris Ponomarev, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Alvaro Cunhal, general secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP], who is in the Soviet Union on a holiday.

During the friendly conversation there was an extensive exchange of opinions on the activities of the CPSU and the PCP and also on certain key questions of the world situation.

During the examination of questions of the international situation, the representatives of both parties stressed the necessity of the further rallying of the communist, workers and revolutionary democratic parties in the struggle against imperialism and reaction and in defense of peace, democracy and socialism. The firm conviction was expressed that the present international situation demands the activation of all peace-loving forces for the consolidation and deepening of international detente and for the ending of the arms race. It was also noted that the present policy of the Chinese leadership is causing serious damage to the cause of rallying the peace-loving and anti-imperialist forces, is running counter to the interests of the cause of peace and socialism and is openly becoming linked with the intentions and actions of forces which are hostile to the cause of peace and social progress.

The meeting, which passed in an atmosphere of fraternity and cordiality, confirmed the complete identity of both parties' views on all the matters discussed, their striving to facilitate in every way the development of friendly Soviet-Portuguese relations and to strengthen the unbreakable friendship and combat solidarity between the CPSU and the PCP on the immovable basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

PCP'S CUNHAL APPEARS ON SOVIET TELEVISION

LD302256Y Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 2100 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Appearing on Soviet television, the visiting secretary general of the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP], Alvaro Cunhal, today wished the Soviet people a Happy New Year.

Alvaro Cunhal said that the (?successful) socialist [word indistinct] in the Soviet Union greatly assists the struggle of the workers in Portugal and other capitalist countries.

The PCP secretary general noted that the policy pursued by the socialist countries contributes to preserving the peace. Referring to developments in Portugal, Alvaro Cunhal said that the situation had (?deteriorated) following the formation of the Mota Pinto cabinet. This government is conducting a rightwing policy and poses a threat to the democratic gains of the Portuguese people.

COMMENTATOR HAILS ADOPTION OF SPANISH CONSTITUTION

LD292345Y Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 1900 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Yuriy Aleksin commentary: "An Important Milestone on the Road to Democracy in Spain"]

[Text] A new constitution, approved recently in a national referendum, came into force in Spain today. [paragraph continues]

The outcome of the referendum made it clear in no uncertain terms that the battle for the constitution has been won by the overwhelming majority of those who took part in the voting.

The defeat of rightwing forces demonstrates that the Spanish people have firmly decided not to let extremist groups detour the country from the path of democratic development. These forces cannot (?impede) Spain's future march along the path to democratization. Thus, for the first time in 40 years, Spain has gained a constitution that guarantees it a chance to move toward democracy. This constitution represents a great milestone in the cause of the establishment of democracy in the country and in the formation of its new political (?physiognomy). The constitution was drafted with the active participation of the Spanish CP and the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, as well as the Union of the Democratic Center.

However, one cannot forget that the enemies of democracy in Spain have not completely laid down their arms. An example which proves this can be seen in the recent attempts by the forces of reaction to use the armed forces to achieve their ends. The military parade held in Madrid to mark the approval of the country's new constitution was a demonstration of the army's loyalty to the policy pursued by the nation's government. Naturally, [words indistinct] which was demonstrated by the fact that a third of all Spanish voters did not take part in the referendum.

Thus the country has begun its long journey. On the eve of the New Year, 1979, the Soviet people, who always followed with [words indistinct] Spain's democratization, congratulate the Spanish people on the promulgation of their new constitution and wish them further success in their country's march along the path of democratic restoration.

FRG'S GENSCHER PRAISES QUALITY OF FRG-USSR RELATIONS

LD301200Y Moscow TASS in English 1107 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, December 30, TASS--Foreign Minister of the FRG Hans-Dietrich Genscher has highly appraised the Soviet-West German relations. In the newspaper NORDSEE ZEITUNG he characterized as "an outstanding event" the enactment of the agreement on the development and deepening of long term cooperation between the USSR and FRG in the sphere of economy and industry. The minister emphasizes particularly that its conclusion has been one of the results of the visit to the FRG of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev. Hans-Dietrich Genscher writes: "The significance of the agreement exceeds by far the spheres of industrial and scientific-technical cooperation. Political accents here cannot but be seen. In this agreement designed for 25 years both governments express their will for a long term cooperation. We clearly see here the desire for a positive development of bilateral relations as a whole. These relations are of the decisive significance for peace in Europe".

COUNTING ON USSR RESTRAINT ON BERLIN IS 'DANGEROUS DELUSION'

LD291229Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Stanislav Zyubanov article: "Dangerous Confusion"]

[Text] West Berlin--Increasing unlawful activity on the part of certain FRG circles has been observed in West Berlin recently. [paragraph continues]

An example of this was the session of the Christian Democratic Union Federal Committee held in early December which discussed questions having nothing to do with West Berlin.

Various foreign statesmen are regularly brought here from the banks of the Rhine on special excursions within the framework of official visits to the FRG. The FRG Government persists in including a visit to West Berlin in their programs, as if it were a part of the Bonn state.

On top of everything, Bonn officials quietly, sometimes ostentatiously, carry out official acts here which are categorically prohibited by the Four-Power Agreement of 3 September 1971. How else is one to describe the participation of the FRG president, together with two federal ministers, in the official opening of the so-called "state library" here on 15 December? This is all grist for the mill of those forces which are openly against the strict and full observance of the Four-Power Agreement.

Some people in the FRG are evidently not aware that no contrivance or subterfuge can change West Berlin's special status, which has become established in the process of postwar development. The key provision of the Four-Power Agreement on West Berlin states unambiguously that the city does not belong to the FRG and cannot be administered by it.

To justify their very dubious actions, certain Bonn politicians have recently been trying to lead public opinion into confusion by alleging that the Soviet Union has already reconciled itself to these intrigues in principle. This is allegedly indicated by the Soviet side's "relatively restrained reaction," for instance, to the illegal election of governing Mayor Stobbe to the post of Bundesrat chairman, to attempts to involve the city in the Common Market, and also to other FRG actions in West Berlin.

This is a dangerous delusion. The provisions of the Four-Power Agreement must be strictly observed.

The Soviet Union, as is known, is doing everything possible to maintain and strengthen peace on the European continent. It is in favor of tranquillity in central Europe and participation by West Berlin in the process of detente. Unfortunately, such aspirations are alien to the circles in the FRG and West Berlin which are trying repeatedly to poison the atmosphere around this city.

BRIEFS

SOVIET-FINNISH FRIENDSHIP--A cooperation plan for 1978 has been signed in Moscow between the Union of Soviet Friendship Societies, the USSR-Finland society and the Finland-USSR society. It envisages further broadening of traditional exchanges of delegations, exhibitions and films. A monthly Finnish-Soviet friendship meeting will be organised in Helsinki and other towns. In the USSR meetings, gatherings and soirees in honor of Finland's independence day will be held. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1508 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD]

SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUE TO COMMENT ON SITUATION IN IRAN

Bakhtiar to Attempt to Form Government

LD301446Y Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Reports from Tehran say the shah has asked a member of the opposition National Front, Shahpur Bakhtiar, to form a new government. His civilian Cabinet is to replace the present military government, which has been in office less than 2 months. Shahpur Bakhtiar said he would consult other members of the front, but the front leader, Snjabi, has declined to discuss participation in the government, pointing out that this conflicts with the objectives of the opposition.

Mass antigovernment and anti-American demonstrations continued in Tehran and other Iranian cities on Friday. The troops again used arms against the marchers. There were casualties.

Meanwhile, the American aircraft carrier constellation is reported by the UPI Agency to have left a U. S. base in the Philippines in the direction of Iran. The ship is escorted by other vessels.

The Washington STAR says the American authorities are considering emergency measures to save petrol and fuel, should the stoppage at the Iranian oilfields continue for a long time.

Shah's Family Reportedly Leaves

LD301448Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Fresh antigovernment demonstrations began in the Iranian capital today. Near the Tehran bazaar shots were heard. AFP, referring to Radio Tehran, has reported that demonstrations took place yesterday in 20 Iranian towns. During clashes between demonstrators and units of the police and army there were people killed and injured. Particularly fierce skirmishes took place in the northwestern and southwestern parts of the country. During the night rumors circulated in the Iranian capital about the shah giving up his rule and departing soon from Iran. These rumors, however, have been refuted by officials.

According to news agency reports, an Iranian aircraft carrying some members of the shah's family has arrived in the American city of Los Angeles.

Spokesmen for the U. S. administration have confirmed that the aircraft carrier Constellation and its escort vessels have set off in the direction of Iran, UPI reports. These spokesmen stated that so far no decision has been made about whether the squadron of U. S. naval vessels will enter the Persian Gulf.

At the same time, the U. S. authorities are drawing up emergency measures to save fuel in the case of a long interruption in the work of Iran's oilfields, the Washington STAR reports.

[Moscow in Persian at 1630 GMT on 30 December repeats the above item but omits the last two sentences from . . . these spokesmen stated . . . to end of item . . . Washington STAR reports.]

Prime Minister Resigns

LD010749Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The resignation of General Azhari from the post of prime minister of the military government of Iran has been officially announced in Tehran. The reason for his resignation was the mass antigovernment demonstrations taking place (?in towns) throughout the country.

[Moscow World Service in English at 1400 GMT on 1 January 79 LD reports that: "The shah of Iran has accepted the resignation of the head of the military government, General Azhari. The deputy premier, Ali Faddad, will act as prime minister until a civilian government is formed."]

State Department Sponsors Study

LD291916Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Yevgeniy Grachev]

[Text] The situation in Iran is becoming more tense every day. This morning, 100,000 people took part in a demonstration in Mashhad, in the east of the country, protesting the killing of 21 men last Saturday when they fell before bullets of soldiers and policemen. Demonstrations are also being staged in other parts of the country, where troops are using arms against demonstrators. Big demonstrations were held yesterday in the large towns of Tabriz, Esfahan and Shiraz.

The demonstrators are demanding the shah's abdication and a halt to the U. S. interference in the domestic affairs of Iran. In the center of Tehran tens of thousands of anti-American slogans have appeared on walls. In the clashes with troops and police 14 people were killed in Tehran yesterday and dozens were wounded.

The country's oil workers are continuing their general strike. According to reports, production of oil has come to a complete standstill.

All attempts to form a civilian government have failed because the military leadership refuses to agree to the shah's departure from the country. And the opposition insists on this.

The AFP Washington correspondent reports that the United States, while continuing to give support to the shah's regime, has admitted that it has considerably broadened contacts with the opposition, including religious leaders.

With this aim in mind a sizeable group is working in Tehran, consisting of officials of the CIA, State Department and other U. S. organs. They are striving to find among the opposition leaders people who would be capable of helping Washington preserve its positions and influence in Iran in case the shah resigns.

In order to strengthen its interference in Iranian affairs, the U. S. administration is now looking into the possibility of dispatching a U. S. aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Another report from Washington notes that the State Department has formed a group of specialists under David Newsom, assistant to the secretary of state, for a detailed study of events in Iran, where developments are alarming Washington to an ever greater degree because of their vividly anti-American character.

Anti-American Demonstrations

LD300307Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Vsevolod Shishkovskiy]

[Summary] Antigovernment and anti-American demonstrations are continuing in Iran, as is the oil strike. Rationing of gasoline has been introduced and business life is at a standstill.

"The authorities and the military command are making desperate attempts to save the existing regime. About 60,000 soldiers, gendarmes and police, and several hundred tanks are already concentrated in Tehran. On the political front, attempts to form a civilian government have so far been unsuccessful. The question is being complicated by the position of the army leadership, which objects to removal of the shah from the post of commander in chief and his leaving the country. Remember that American influence is very strong in the Iranian Army.

"The events of the last few days show that anti-American demonstrations in the country have been sharply intensified. In Shiraz the Iranian-American society has been devastated, and in Isfahan an American aircraft manufacturing company has been burned down.

"Meanwhile, there are new facts on Washington's attempts to give further support to the shah's regime. According to news agency reports, President Carter is studying the possibility of sending an aircraft carrier or some other warship to the Persian Gulf."

Troops Fire on Protesters

LD291242Y Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] In Iran, troops shot dead a number of anti-government demonstrators who took to the streets of Tehran last night in defiance of the curfew. According to REUTER, shooting was heard in several parts of the capital. On Thursday, five persons were killed in Tehran when troops opened fire to disperse protesters demanding social and political reforms, the abdication of the shah and the end of American interference in Iran. About 40 persons were killed in Ahvaz, and several persons were killed in Shiraz when soldiers shot at demonstrators in the Iranian-American cultural center.

Meanwhile the United States administration is reportedly weighing the possibility of sending a Navy carrier task force into the Persian Gulf to back the shah.

Aircraft Carrier to Gulf Possible

LD291542Y Moscow in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The United States is studying a plan to maintain the present regime in Iran. According to Western news agencies, to achieve this, Washington is debating the question of sending an aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf. Earlier, a special group consisting of CIA agents and representatives of the State Department and other agencies arrived in Iran as advisers. They are looking for individuals who might help the U. S. position in the new Iranian Government.

Mass demonstrations against the present regime and U.S. interference in Iran are assuming unprecedented magnitude.

U.S. Refuses Comment on Aircraft Carriers

LD010328Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] A spokesman for the U.S. Navy refused to say anything about the routes of the aircraft carriers Constellation and Midway, which according to news agency reports, are headed for the coast of Iran. At the same time, it is not ruled out in Washington that the presence of these aircraft carriers off the Iranian coast could be used to interfere in the internal affairs of Iran, under the pretext of evacuating American personnel.

U.S. 'Gunboat Diplomacy'

LD302140Y Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "Gunboat Diplomacy Once Again"]

[Text] On the morning of 29 December, AP reported that the White House is dealing with the issue of sending an American attack aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf. A few hours later, this news was repeated with reference to the New York TIMES and Washington POST. On the morning of 30 December, it became clear that the Constellation, one of the aircraft carriers of the American 7th Fleet, had left the American base in the Philippines and was moving toward Iran.

The Constellation is one of the biggest attack aircraft carriers of the United States. It has a displacement of 76,000 tons and carries 90 aircraft. Several times in the past this attack aircraft carrier has entered the Persian Gulf when the struggle of the nations of the Persian Gulf littoral countries was intensified against the imperialist monopolies to gain control over their national oil wealth. The present visit is related to events in Iran and the intensified struggle of the people of your country for freedom and democracy against the encroachments of the United States and the American imperialism in the internal affairs of (?Iran).

Everyone knows that Iran has many times in the past been subjected to the colonialist gunboat diplomacy. At the turn of this century, Bushehr was turned into a center of the British naval force in the Persian Gulf. In 1932 when for the first time in Iran [word indistinct] was taking place over the activity of the Anglo-Iranian oil company, a large force of the British Navy came to the Persian Gulf. At that time, the issues of sending British forces to the Iranian coasts and the bombardment of the Persian Gulf ports were considered in London. In 1951 when the National Front government under Dr Mossaddeq achieved nationalization of the oil industry, the British Government not only sent its warships to the Persian Gulf but also to Shat al-Arab and the Karun River near Abadan. But this measure of the British Government failed to intimidate the Iranian people and the people of your country continued their struggle for gaining control over their national wealth. Had the CIA and the American monopolies not interfered, the Mossaddeq government would have continued [words indistinct] and the country's administration.

It should also be pointed out that the American naval fleet, too, has a bloody experience in exercising gunboat diplomacy. (?Some time ago) the attack aircraft carrier Constellation was one of the ships that took part in the [word indistinct] of the American imperialism against Vietnam. (?Recently), the U.S. ruling circles with obvious endorsement from Peking are increasing the number of ships in the 7th Fleet; and [words indistinct] naval forces in Diego Garcia, expanding military bases in the Persian Gulf, and keeping their warships in Bahrain as before.

These measures on the whole caused anger and abomination among the world social circles including the Iranian progressive force. But these measures were, unfortunately, supported by the Hoveyda and Amuzegar governments. In 1975 when anti-American feelings were intensified in Arab countries as a result of the unlimited U.S. support for the Israeli aggressors, Washington made preparations for joint naval and air operations for future occupation of oilfields in a number of Persian Gulf countries. For this purpose, it was contemplated that a large naval unit of the American 7th Fleet, including aircraft carriers, would be sent to the Gulf of Oman and from there to the Strait of Hormuz. It was decided that the 802d U.S. Parachute Battalion be sent to Israeli air-ports so that the parachute forces could be landed on the Persian Gulf coasts and in this way enable an open passage for the 7th Fleet ships. These plans were not effected at the time, but the present movement of the attack aircraft carrier Constellation reminds one of that recent past.

Today, the American oil monopolies, the Pentagon and the CIA once again want to change the course of history for the benefit of the enemies of Iran. The United States wants to keep the Iranian oil and Iran's support for itself and the United States wants to do this not only through political means but also through the dispatch of aircraft carriers and destroyers. But it must be mentioned that the era of gunboat diplomacy has passed.

Korionov Response to U.S. Plans

LD010509Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0445 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

["Seeking a Pretext"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow--Under the heading "Seeking a Pretext," PRAVDA today publishes the following response by Vitaliy Korionov:

"The U.S. news media is reporting that official Washington is 'seriously' considering the question of sending American warships, headed by an aircraft carrier, into the Persian Gulf. According to the New York TIMES, Z. Brzezinski, Carter's assistant for national security, played a dominant part in working out this government policy."

"The inspirers of the latest 'gunboat diplomacy' are seeking some means of justifying militarist intervention in the internal affairs of Iran. Blatantly provocative means are being resorted to, directed against the USSR. Government officials, the New York TIMES writes, assert that this is not a case of trying to keep the shah in power, but of 'demonstrating a counteraction by the Americans to some kind of possible attempt by the Soviet Union to intervene in the crisis.'"

"The New York TIMES, however, concludes that apart from reports in the Soviet press about events in Iran, 'the officials have not named any other step on Moscow's part which could have induced the White House to study this variant involving sending an aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf.'"

"A report sent about the same time by ASSOCIATED PRESS is even more revealing. Government officials have said, the agency declared, that 'there are no signs which would indicate that the Russians intend to interfere in the affairs of their neighbor Iran.'"

"Thus the smokescreen of lies is dissipated. It becomes ever more obvious that the latest provocative concoction from the Washington kitchen has just one aim--to justify in advance a possible action hostile to the cause of peace and the sovereign rights of the peoples." [Moscow TASS in English at 1030 GMT on 1 January 79 identifies the above article by Korionov as a "rejoinder".]

Washington, New York Dispatches

LD291840Y Moscow TASS in English 1819 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Washington, December 29, TASS--At a press conference here Christian Carter, a spokesman of the U.S. State Department, expressed disagreement with Soviet press reports which maintain that the United States is attempting to influence political developments in Iran, which is rocked by anti-government actions on an unprecedented scale. At the same time he failed to quote any facts that could refute such reports and evaded pressmen's questions about the activities of the CIA in Iran.

Meanwhile, the American press provides new data pointing to the existence of the Washington administration's dangerous plans for interfering in the Iranian events.

The New York TIMES writes today that the deepening crisis in Iran prompted James Carter's administration to work out a broad complex of extraordinary plans which, according to government officials, envisage the possible dispatch of a group of American warships, including an aircraft carrier, to the Persian Gulf, though no final decision has yet been taken on the matter. The variant with the aircraft carrier may be implemented shortly.

The U.S. State Department hastened to refute this report, which was published by the way in the Washington POST as well. The denial, however, looks unconvincing when one takes into account that, according to a Pentagon spokesman, seven U.S. naval ships have already been in the Arabian Sea since November, that is, in the immediate vicinity from Iran's shores. The group includes a missile cruiser, a missile destroyer, a frigate and a supply tanker.

New York, December 29, TASS--News agencies report that from early morning today Tehran was again in the grip of massive anti-government demonstrations. Clashes between the demonstrators and troops took place in the region of the city cemetery, at the railway station and near the central bazaar.

The people of the capital are suffering an acute shortage of water and electricity. Because of the complete cessation of oil extraction, as a result of the general strike of many thousands of employees of this industry, the fuel shortage is sharpening every day. The Ministry of Energetics announced the other day the closure of two thermal power plants in the vicinity of Tehran. Power supply to industrial enterprises is suspended or considerably reduced.

Political strikes have paralyzed many ministries, the customs and postal services, the international telephone exchange, the printing of central papers. The banks have suspended or sharply restricted the payment of money. During December prices on some foodstuffs in Tehran have grown three-fold.

News agencies describe the strikes rocking the country as an "economic war" against the present regime. The Washington POST commenting on the events in Iran writes that Iranian sources with good connections at present exclude a political solution of the crisis by forming a civilian government headed by the former National Front figure Sadiqi.

In the prevailing circumstances the U.S. is ever more frankly staking on the extreme right-wing circles in the army command.

The UPI quotes the opinion of Western diplomats in the Iranian capital to the effect that a political solution of the Iranian crisis "no longer seems possible," and that in the next few days the military might attempt a military coup.

Analyzing the situation in Iran, the Lebanese paper AS-SAFIR writes that, in case the Iranian authorities fail to suppress the broad popular actions, the United States intends to prompt the military towards a coup d'etat.

"Unrest in Iran has never reached such a pitch before, and there was never such a complete economic standstill as today," writes the French paper LE MATIN. "The crisis in Iran is approaching a decisive stage."

Brezhnev Warning; Khomeyni Call

LD291810Y Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] According to news agency reports from Washington, President Carter is studying the possibility of sending an aircraft carrier or a warship to the Persian Gulf. The United States intends to reaffirm its support for the present regime in Iran and thus apply pressure on those taking part in antigovernment and anti-U.S. demonstrations which are currently taking place in this country.

Last month, the USSR warned anyone attempting to interfere in the internal affairs of Iran. Leonid Brezhnev, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, replying to questions put to him by a PRAVDA correspondent on 19 November, said: The USSR opposes any form of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Iran, under any pretext.

Antigovernment demonstrations continued in Iran today. Approximately 10,000 gathered near the city cemetery. Troops fired into the air in an effort to disperse them. Approximately 500 people went on strike and on sit-ins on railway tracks.

Ayatollah Khomeyni, who, having been expelled from Iran is now in France, has called for another strike tomorrow in order to mark the death of those killed since the public demonstrations began in Iran.

'Dangerous Plans' of U.S. Interference

LD301642Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

[Text] In Iran massive demonstrations continue and have spread from the cities to smaller population centers. The demonstrators demand the shah's abdication, democratic social reforms and a stop to the United States' interference in Iranian affairs. These are also the demands of the general strike that has paralyzed the nation's economy.

The monarchy is doing everything possible to retain power. Meanwhile, after the so-called moderate Gholam Sadiqi failed to form a coalition civil government to replace the military government, the shah turned to one of the members of the opposition National Front, Shahpur Bakhtiar. Bakhtiar said he would consult with other members of the front, but the front's leader, Karim Sanjabi, has refused to consider participation in a coalition government. He insists the shah abdicate.

The efforts of ruling groups to save the present regime have the full support of Washington, which is interested in keeping its economic and military hold on Iran. The support takes the form of direct interference in Iranian affairs.

Sixty members of the Central Intelligence Agency, the State Department and other United States agencies have come to Iran to help save the shah's regime. The CIA is energetically searching for people suitable to the United States who could enter into a civil government.

There are also reports of more dangerous plans for United States interference. The news agency UPI reports the aircraft carrier Constellation has left a United States base in the Philippines with an escort of ships and is heading in the direction of Iran.

The Soviet Union has warned against attempts at foreign interference in Iran. The Communist Party leader and President Leonid Brezhnev told the newspaper PRAVDA on 19 November that the Soviet Union was opposed to all outside interference in the internal affairs of Iran, no matter what form it took or what the pretext was.

Demonstrations Sweep Country

LD302054Y Moscow TASS in English 2035 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

["Iran: Crucial Days"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, December 30, TASS--Powerful anti-government demonstrations have swept the whole of Iran today. The day of tribute to the memory of the killed fighters against the present regime has been marked all over the country in answer to the call by the opposition leaders. Mass demonstrations started in Tehran since early morning. As a UPI agency correspondent reports, the troops repeatedly opened fire from automatic weapons downtown the capital [as received]. The demonstrators chanted "Down with the U.S. Imperialists Supporting the Tyranny!" According to foreign journalists, a woman and a baby in her hands were killed in one of the streets in the eastern part of the city in front of many eyewitnesses.

Several people were crushed by tanks in Mashhad during a 150 thousand strong demonstration held today, a FRANCE PRESSE AGENCY correspondent reports. A total of 41 people were killed and 250 seriously injured there.

Fierce clashes, which resulted in human casualties also took place in Marag, Hamadan, Yazd, Shiraz, Esfahan, Tabriz and many other towns.

A UPI correspondent writes that an American newspaper photographer, who visited Qazvin, saw in the town cemetery corpses of 35 children and 18 grown-ups. The report says that in this industrial town, where tanks were for the first time used in dispersing demonstrations, at least 118 people died in recent days.

All the Western agencies are spreading rumours about the possible departure of the shah from Iran. But a spokesman for the court refuted in his official statement the report that the shah intends to abdicate or leave the country for an indefinite time.

But, as a UPI agency correspondent points out, Sh. Bakhtiar, a member of the opposition National Front, whom the shah asked to form a civil Cabinet, proposed as a condition his consent that the head of state temporarily leave the country and turn over his powers to a regency council including the oldest political figures. Sh. Bakhtiar also offered that the present Parliament be dissolved, the SAVAK secret service disbanded and the government be given the control of the armed forces.

At its session today, the leadership of the National Front again declared that it demands that the shah unconditionally abdicate. It has condemned the consent of Bakhtiar to form a cabinet and unanimously expelled him from the Regional Front.

Meanwhile, the shah's mother and a number of other members of his family accompanied by several high-ranking government officials left Iran and arrived yesterday on board a special plane in Los Angeles (USA).

The American press reports that the United States intends to send to the shores of Iran a naval squadron including two aircraft carriers: "Constellation" and "Midway". A spokesman for the State Department refused to comment on these reports, but, as UPI agency said, the aircraft carrier "Constellation" and the ships accompanying her have already left the U.S. Subic Bay base in the Philippines, and the aircraft carrier "Midway" left the American base in Yokosuka (Japan) already yesterday.

Involved in the decisions in connection with the sending of the naval squadron, the newspaper New York TIMES points out, is a special working group set up at the White House with deputy assistant for national security affairs David Aaron at its head. Another considerably large interdepartmental group for the evaluation of the situation in Iran is acting under the guidance of assistant secretary of state on political affairs David Newsom.

These steps by Washington are assessed in the political circles as another attempt at influencing the course of events in Iran, at using the show of military strength as a means of bringing pressure to bear on a sovereign foreign state.

In this connection, the Washington POST quotes foreign diplomats as saying that the reports on the sending of a U.S. naval squadron to the Persian Gulf area will result in a further mounting of popular disturbances in Iran, which have already made that country actually ungovernable. Some Napoleons in Washington think, the newspaper writes, that they will be able to influence the course of events in Iran by means of such methods of psychological warfare. This is a typical manifestation of the thinking of armchair generals. As the news of the sending of the naval ships will spread among the Iranians, who will assess it as America's threat to interfere in the Iranian affairs with the aim of keeping the shah on the throne, a further mounting of anti-American sentiments can be expected in that country.

Paris, December 30, TASS--The newspaper L'HUMANITE condemns the policy, which the United States is trying to pursue vis-a-vis Iran, stresses that such a line constitutes a grave danger to both the Iranian people and to preservation of peace in that region.

European Reactions Two-Fold

LD011328Y Moscow in Persian to Iran 1130 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] A report received from Bonn says that loud talk in Washington about the dispatch of American warships, led by an aircraft carrier, toward Iran has evoked a two-fold reaction on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. Supporters of the policy of relaxing tensions regard this as a worrying measure: Has America forgotten the lesson of Vietnam so soon? At the same time, such news sounds like a trumpet call to the hot-blooded supporters of cold war. They resort to (?threats) in the first place and claim, so to speak, that if (?new) force is not used a calamity will be inevitable. For example, the bourgeois newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, in an editorial entitled "Let Us Defend the Shah" wrote: The sensitivity of the [word indistinct] Arab empires is known; if the Western governments dare not take measures in defense of the shah now with such a policy, they will only weaken the Arab monarchical regimes.

Western Citizens Told To Leave

LD011204Y Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] It has been officially announced in Iran that the head of the military government, General Azhari, has resigned. The reason for the resignation was unceasing mass anti-government and anti-American demonstrations and strikes.

In Mashhad, in the east of the country, yesterday scores of people were killed and hundreds were injured when troops opened fire on demonstrators. People were reported to have been crushed by tanks. The religious leader, Shirazi, managed to escape by a miracle after soldiers stormed his house. Clashes also occurred in other cities, including the capital, Tehran. Hospitals are overcrowded with the injured.

The embassies of the United States and other Western countries have called on their citizens to leave Iran urgently. Demonstrators are denouncing Washington's interference and its attempts to keep the regime in power at any cost including plans to send their vessels, led by an aircraft carrier, to the Persian Gulf. These plans are presented as a counter-action to an alleged Soviet interference in Iran's affairs. The newspaper PRAVDA today points out that such allegations pursue the only goal of justifying in advance a possible action hostile to peace and the sovereign rights of nations.

Moscow Dari on Events

LD291530Y Moscow in Dari to Afghanistan 1330 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] A great many Iranian cities were yesterday engulfed in anti-government and anti-U.S. demonstrations. In the evening in Tehran, despite curfew hours, thousands marched along the avenues and demanded the abdication of the shah.

In Shiraz, in the south, citizens protested against U.S. intervention and tried to set fire to the U.S. cultural center building.

In the cities of Ahvaz, Abadan, Esfahan and Tabriz they chanted slogans such as: Yankees, Get Out! and Shah, Get Out!. The troops repeatedly opened fire on the demonstrators. Several people were killed or wounded.

Despite the suppression in Iran, there are not only political demonstrations but also strikes. There are strikes in the oilfields and in a great many industrial factories and various institutions.

Moscow Persian Commentary

LD312232Y Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Dear listeners, we will now draw your attention to an article by Igor (Shaptunov), a Moscow radio commentator, entitled: "Iran on the Eve of 1979." Our commentator writes:

Dear listeners, at a Tehran New Year reception last year U.S. President Carter promised: We shall strive for the vindication of human rights in the coming year. A correspondent of the U.S. newspaper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR stated at the time that he observed in this a meaningful New Year gesture, but the correspondent added that he preferred not to disclose the meaningful aspect of this gesture.

KEYHAN, however, has disclosed the meaningful aspect of this gesture best. It published Carter's 1 January remarks on the same page as a picture of large U.S. Cadillac cars. In an editorial with large headlines, KEYHAN said that the most modern and elegant U.S. cars, which cost 1 million tumans each, are being purchased in the Iranian automobile market with great enthusiasm.

When the United States speaks of its readiness to defend the rights of Iranians, it means in particular those Iranians who buy a U.S.-made Cadillac at the cost of 1 million tumans. The U.S. Government has in mind particularly those 1,000 families who have amassed fabulous riches because of the corruption and bribery that has engulfed the upper echelon of society. U.S. monopolies defend their rights to loot with every means at their disposal.

As regards the matters concerning other Iranians, however, one must say that Washington's sweet talk to them about human rights was something [word indistinct] for the New Year, and the year 1978 which has ended proved this reality with more conspicuous clarity than any other year.

Apart from that, the past year convincingly proved that the Iranian nation decisively rejects Washington's policy and that of its Iranian associates. As a result of the people's movement, the governments of Amuzegar and Sharif-Emami resigned one after another. Despite the fact that the government of General Azhari came to power, the Iranian people's struggles to vindicate their rights continue to intensify. In the course of the mighty, universal and national movement which has shaken Iran throughout the past year, the people raised their demands for fundamental reforms, whose implementation alone can end the social and economic crisis.

Nevertheless, using various means the imperialists support the existing rotten and medieval regime in Iran and protect the notorious 1,000 families. The reason for this, in the first place, is that the upper echelon of Iranian society, which is polluted with corruption and bribery, is enriching itself through looting and plundering its own nation, and at the same time it helps imperialist monopolies to become richer by plundering and looting Iran's oil wealth and through (?unequal trade) with your country. In order to gain huge profits and gains, imperialism particularly tries to see rightist and (?corrupt) elements in power in Iran. To achieve this it does not solely rely on New Year [words indistinct]. These very [words indistinct] are the cruelties and excesses imposed on the Iranian people through SAVAK, that was set up with the help of the CIA, that is, the American Central Intelligence Agency, and with the help of an army run by thousands of U.S. advisers and consultants.

Last year thoroughly and completely showed the hypocrisy and two-faced nature of the American supporters of human rights who use every means possible, including tanks, helicopters, automatic weapons, all kinds of other weapons and American-made tear gas, against an unarmed people who have risen in a just struggle to regain their rights. Describing the result of his visit to Iran last year, Carter said on the first days of the New Year that Americans are welcomed with open arms in Iran. Those who own Cadillacs worth 1 million tumans each! Those who, on New Year's eve, have reserved tables at the most sumptuous and exclusive restaurants in London, Paris, Miami and Nice! Those who have purchased palaces and villas in Europe and the United States--these indeed would welcome with open arms the CIA and Pentagon agents who are now being sent to Iran in large groups.

But if we talk about the Iranian nation, then we will see with perfect clarity the true feelings of millions of Iranians in the "Yankee Go Home" slogan which, according to the American news agency UPI, can be seen on all houses in Tehran and in other Iranian cities. It is useless and pointless of a State Department spokesman to say, in a special statement issued on New Year's eve, that the Soviet media is allegedly to blame for the growth and heightening of anti-American feeling in Iran.

Of course, the Soviet people, being faithful to their international duties, express happiness for and welcome with enthusiasm and excitement the just struggles of any nation, particularly a neighboring nation which is suffering from the oppression and cruelties of imperialism and its associates. We want Iran, our neighboring country, to be free, independent, happy and prosperous, and its nation successful and happy. At the same time, our country never interferes in the internal affairs of any country, and it wants other countries to do the same.

Should Washington adopt a different attitude, the responsibility will be entirely Washington's. No one has been given permission to violate or trample upon the Iranian nation's rights.

Tudeh Party Statement

LD300350Y Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Reports from Iran speak of growing tension. Here are some details:

Participants in the continuing mass demonstrations insist on the immediate abdication by the shah, on social and democratic reforms, and on an end to America's interference in the internal affairs of Iran. Hundreds of thousands of people in Tehran again took to the streets yesterday. Barricades appeared on the main thoroughfares. A UPI news agency reporter said crowds of people shouted Yankees Go Home. The demonstrators again tried to make their way to the U.S. Embassy.

Meanwhile, in the town of Shiraz, an angry crowd smashed up the office of the Iranian-American society. More than once troops opened fire in Tehran, Tabriz, Esfahan, (Yakhrum), and other towns, hopefully to take some heat off the antigovernment and the anti-American actions. Many people were killed. According to a REUTER's reporter, about 40 people were killed in the town of Ahvaz. Demonstrators in the town of Qazvin attacked police barracks. The tanks that were (?flung) on them crushed several people.

Almost the whole country is in the grip of a general strike. Radio Tehran says oil extraction has come to a halt. The authorities and military command are exerting super efforts to save the existing regime. Tehran alone has about 50,000 soldiers and policemen and several hundred tanks these days.

On the political front so far nothing has come of a chance to form a civilian government. The stand taken by the army leaders has made the problem more complicated. They object to the idea of depriving the shah of the post of commander in chief and to him leaving the country. It's the opposition that insists on this. In a statement in Paris, the Iranian Tudeh Party has pointed out the need to form a government that is able to practice freedom, safeguard independence, and cope with social and economic crisis in Iran.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1500 GMT on 30 December adds the following on the Tudeh Party statement:

["The Iranian Tudeh Party has condemned American interference into Iran's internal affairs.

[At present says a party communique, American imperialism in collaboration with the shah is trying in various ways to undermine the people's movement in Iran. The party calls on the Iranian people and the world public to support the struggle of the oil workers who, in its words, represent the decisive factor in the cause for the overthrow of the dictatorship and the formation of a democratic coalition government.]

Moscow Hebrew Raps U.S.

TA291933Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew 1730 GMT 29 Dec 78 TA

[Text] It has been reported from Washington that the U.S. administration is planning to transfer naval forces to the shores of the Persian Gulf. According to AP, Washington intends to take this step in order to prevent foreign intervention in Iran's affairs. In fact, the U.S. policy proves that the opposite is true: That U.S. intervention in that country's domestic affairs is increasing.

A special group of (790) members of the CIA, the State Department and of other U.S. organizations is staying in Tehran nowadays. This group is working out recommendations on ways to defend the pro-imperialistic regime and seeks personalities who will be prepared to join a new government which will continue to pursue the old policy.

The U.S. Marines, together with the Iranian security forces, are participating in the riots being held against the people. Under these circumstances, it is clear that sending the U.S. warships to the Iranian shores greatly endangers Iran's sovereignty and independence.

Filippov Dispatches

LD291137Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent S. Filippov dispatch under general heading: "The Crisis Is Not Easing; the Situation in Iran"]

[Text] Tehran, 21 December--Christmas trees have gone on sale in the central streets of the Iranian capital. Store windows damaged during the recent mass demonstrations by the population are being repaired. Stores and cafes are operating; but martial law is being strictly maintained in Tehran and in 11 other cities and provinces. Over 100,000 soldiers and policemen supported by helicopters and tanks are keeping the capital under unremitting surveillance.

The official reports from Tehran radio and television are of a reassuring nature. For instance, it is asserted that the strikes in the country are abating. It has been announced that classes in all the country's secondary schools and high schools will be resumed on 23 December.

But the population is skeptical about the authorities' reassuring statements--in particular about rapid economic and political stabilization. In November and December alone prices of food and provisions rose by an average of 40 percent, and they have risen approximately 70 percent over the year as a whole. Inflation is increasing. The Iranian currency is being devalued and is not being exchanged by foreign banks. The country's foreign debts, which were a little over \$5 billion at the beginning of this year, had almost doubled by December.

In connection with the recent clashes between the population and army units in Tabriz, Mashhad and Esfahan, opposition deputies have noted in their speeches in Parliament that the authorities' violent measures to suppress the strikes and break up the demonstrations cannot solve the country's socioeconomic and political problems.

As for the united opposition forces, they are still refusing to enter into any negotiations with the military government. They are demanding repeal of martial law, the military Cabinet's resignation and the shah's abdication. This is persistently stressed in the thousands of circulars and leaflets pasted on house walls each day and scattered in the streets and squares of Tehran and other cities by opponents of the present regime.

[Filippov's dispatch from Tehran on 24 Dec under the heading: "The Situation in Iran" published in Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 25 Dec 78 p 5 says:

["The resumption of classes in Iran's secondary schools and high schools was marked by antigovernment student demonstrations in which teachers and the general population at large also took part. The largest and best organized, which were joined by students at higher educational institutions, took place in the capital. These demonstrations continue today right up to 2100 hours, when the curfew comes into force.

["The brickwall enclosing the massive U.S. Embassy was covered with handwritten slogans and printed leaflets saying: "Yankes Get Out of Iran!"; "No! To U.S. Interference in the Country's Affairs"; and "The Oil Belongs to the People!"

["In view of the tense situation that has developed in the country, particularly the growing dissatisfaction of the soldiers used for punitive purposes, the authorities decided against using force to suppress the students. They cancelled classes in 23 schools and high schools in the capital.

["For almost the seventh week newspapers and magazines are still not appearing in the country. Publishers and journalists are demanding the abolition of military censorship and freedom of speech and publication, and support the policies of opposition parties and religious figures.

["The situation in the country, especially in cities like Shiraz, Esfahan, Mashhad and Tabriz, where clashes between military and police units and the population are virtually nonstop, remains extremely tense. Opposition organizations and religious figures in these cities are demanding that the authorities punish those responsible for firing on peaceful demonstrations and that they be brought to public trial.

["A statement made today to the PARS News Agency by the minister of trade acknowledges that the continuing instability in the country is accompanied by an increasing shortage of foodstuffs and fuel. Speculation in goods and foodstuffs, he pointed out, "has reached horrific proportions," and price increases have become "catastrophic."

["It is reported that on instructions of the military authorities it has been decided to convene in the next few days an emergency session of the Majlis (the lower chamber of Parliament), only just dissolved for winter recess, to discuss questions of "exceptional importance for the country."

[Filippov's dispatch from Tehran on 26 Dec under the heading: "The Situation Is Growing More Acute" published in Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 27 Dec said:

["The antigovernment popular unrest which has flared up with new vigor in Tehran and other cities has brought with it a mighty surge in the strike movement.

["The postal services personnel and the workers and employees of a number of enterprises in the cement and mining industries have declared an indefinite strike. State banks are refusing to transfer the money of private individuals, including members of the shah's family, to foreign banks.

["Customs officials serving seaports in the south of the country, employees of certain railroad junctions on the border, and employees of Tehran's international airport have refused to work.

["The strikes at the country's oil and gas fields, which have been interrupted for a few days, were resumed yesterday. Oil extraction has been reduced to a minimum. Attempts by the authorities to get personnel back to work with the aid of soldiers and police are failing.

["Teachers at secondary and higher educational establishments are also on strike. More than 3 million workers and employees in the private and state sectors are today participating, to one degree or another, in the strike movement.

["Strikers' main demands--and this is typical of the present stage of the workers' movement in Iran--are of a political nature: abrogation of martial law, resignation of the government, disbanding of the hated SAVAK secret police, removal of the shah from power and ending U.S. interference in the country's internal affairs.

["It is reported that questions of the political and economic situation in the country were debated at a special closed sitting of the senate. And these same questions are being put before an emergency session of the Majlis."]

Moscow Cites News Media

LD311931Y Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Antigovernment and anti-American demonstrations spread with renewed vigor in various Iranian cities today, and these were particularly intense in the city of Mashhad. Here soldiers joined the demonstrators. The demonstrators are demanding that the shah abdicate from the throne and American interference in the internal affairs of the country be stopped.

According to news agency reports, American warships are sailing toward Iranian shores. The shah's mother and other members of the royal family yesterday arrived in the United States. Western news agencies carry considerable comment regarding the possible departure from Iran of the shah himself. An imperial court spokesman today denied a report that the shah is allegedly planning to abdicate and leave the country. In a commentary on the world situation today, PRAVDA said in an article, devoted to progress made in the current year, that Iran is going through turbulent months. Washington politicians apparently wanted, in order to preserve their position in Iran, to use not only traditional diplomatic means but also guns and force. But the opportunity for direct imperialist armed intervention is much less today.

Other Soviet central newspapers also devote attention to the situation in Iran. IZVESTIYA carries reports by foreign news agencies in which it is said that Washington is carefully following the developments in Iran.

According to the Washington POST, in view of the fact that the situation in Iran might have consequences of the worst kind, the U.S. administration has improved planning methods in its government agencies and has drawn up programs for the immediate evacuation of 40,000 Americans living in Iran and for the withdrawal or destruction of supersonic aircraft and other modern American military material which were once placed at the shah's disposal.

Western journalists generally believe that the course of developments in Iran has now reached the crisis point. The foundations of the present regime have been shaken, and its efforts to stabilize the situation are failing to achieve any result. According to correspondents, antigovernment demonstrations of broad masses in Tehran and other Iranian cities continue. There are street demonstrations and the sound of gunfire and explosions can be heard. The people's blood is being shed. A strike has been declared throughout the country.

According to the French newspaper LE MATIN, the prospects for emerging from the deadlock in this crisis by the formation of a civilian government are diminishing every day, despite hopes of Washington leaders.

29 Dec Situation Reports

LD291924Y Moscow World Service in English 1700 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] First we look at Iran, where there have been more casualties among demonstrators demanding political reform. Here's a dispatch from a TASS correspondent there:

In Iranian cities antigovernment demonstrations continue and troops used force to disperse protesters to demand the abdication of the shah, the end of American interference and the accomplishment of social and political reforms. In Tehran and (?four) other cities troops [words indistinct]. Tanks were on guard in the key points of the capital, while helicopters were hovering over the city. Outside the U.S. Embassy police threw up tight security cordons to hold back anti-American demonstrators. Protest marches took place in Mashhad, Ahvaz, Shiraz and other provincial cities.

Key sectors of Iran's economy, including the oil industry, were completely paralyzed by strikes. The Ministry of Power announced that two electric generating stations near Shiraz had been closed and that power blackouts were likely to increase. Meanwhile, the army, which has always been the main prop for the shah and the regime, is showing some signs of (?stress). In several cities troops refused to shoot at demonstrators and joined street marchers. As an AP correspondent reports from Tehran, the majority of Iran's soldiers are believed to have (?detested) the (?morale-sapping) work of street fighting against some of their country's own people.

The (?senseless) situation in Iran has been complicated by the threat of American military demonstrations near the country's borders. According to press reports, the United States administration is now weighing the possibility of sending a Navy carrier task force into the Persian Gulf to back the shah. Earlier, the American intelligence and military experts had arrived in Iran with the task of drawing up an emergency plan to save the regime. According to the plan, a new government is supposed to be formed to guarantee the United States interests in Iran.

Meanwhile the shah is reported to have asked Shahpur Bakhtiari, a French-educated lawyer and a leading member of the opposition National Front, to form a civilian government. Shahpur Bakhtiari was said to have accepted the proposal and given 3 days to present his government. In Paris the self-exiled opposition leader Ayatollah Khomeini said he would oppose the formation of any government in Iran while the shah remains in power. He said the conditions of his support for a new government were the departure of the shah and abolition of the monarchy in Iran.

[Moscow in Persian to Iran at 1130 GMT on 29 Dec 78 says: "The situation in Iran is daily becoming more critical. From the early hours of yesterday hundreds of thousands of demonstrators once again poured into Tehran's avenues and, according to UPI, the people chanted: Yankees, Get Out of Iran! According to a UPI dispatch, tens of thousands of anti-U.S. slogans can be seen on the walls of nearly all the houses downtown and fires can be seen everywhere. The city's main avenues are blocked by burned-out cars, burning tires, uprooted lampposts and iron boxes and barrels. The demonstrators attempted to attack the U.S. Embassy, but the armed forces repeatedly opened fire to prevent them. Throughout the day shots could be heard in Tehran. Near the building of the central prison policemen killed five demonstrators.

["Clashes also took place yesterday between demonstrators and the police and the armed forces in the cities of Jahrom, Sarab, Tabriz, Teza'iyeh and Esfahan. In the city of Qazvin demonstrators attacked the headquarters of the gendarmerie regiment. Tanks were therefore moved against the demonstrators and, according to UPI, a tank crashed into the crowds and ran over and crushed several people.

["REUTER reports that up to 40 people were killed yesterday in Ahvaz, when troops attacked the city's hospital and tried to disperse the demonstrators.

["In the city of Shiraz the angry demonstrators destroyed the building of the Iran-U.S. society.

["The military authorities are concentrating their forces in Tehran, where about 60,000 troops, gendarmes and police and hundreds of tanks have been deployed.

["The strike involving all oil workers continues. The mercenary U.S. strikebreakers are leaving the oilfields and refineries. Radio Tehran said yesterday that the country's oil extraction has completely stopped.

["Workers at the international telephone exchange have joined the oil workers, the workers of Iran Air, the staff of the Economic Affairs and Finance Ministry and other government departments who are on strike and, like the entire people, demand an end to the bloody, violent action against demonstrators and a guarantee of democratic freedoms and implementing progressive reforms in the country.

["Economic life in Iran has been completely paralyzed. Banks are closed. All attempts made so far to set up a nonmilitary government have been useless. As is being said among informed quarters, the issue is becoming complex and involved as a result of the attitude adopted by the military heads of the army toward the shah's government. The military are against the shah leaving the country, demanded by the opposition to the regime.

["Daryush Foruhar, spokesman of the National Front in opposition to the government, accused the Iranian regime of the deliberate murder of defenseless people.

["AFP has published the Tudeh Party's statement in Paris. The leadership of the Tudeh Party of Iran has called on progressive forces throughout the world to stop at nothing to force the shah's government to stop its barbarous measures and criminal deeds against the people. The statement says: The Tudeh Party considers the deposal of the ruling regime as the first condition for progress in Iran and insists that a government of national unity be set up which would be able to establish freedom, (?guarantee) the country's (?life) and put an end to economic and social crisis in the country."

30 Dec Situation Reports

LD301640Y Moscow in Persian to Iran 1130 GMT Dec 78 LD

[Text] We begin this program with reports connected with the events in Iran. PRAVDA today carried the following items on Iran:

Washington: A spokesman of the U.S. State Department, at a press conference in Washington, expressed his disagreement with reports in the Soviet press that the United States is attempting to influence the course of political events in Iran, which has been completely engulfed by an unprecedented wave of antigovernment demonstrations. The spokesman did not produce any evidence to refute these reports and evaded questions from newsmen on the activity of the CIA in Iran.

In the meantime, the U.S. press is referring to fresh facts which indicate that the Washington administration has some dangerous plans for intervention in events in Iran.

The New York TIMES wrote: The crisis in Iran, which is growing daily, has forced the Carter administration to draw up extensive, comprehensive and extraordinary plans which, according to government officials, envisage the possibility of dispatching a group of U.S. warships, including an aircraft carrier, to the Persian Gulf.

The State Department hastily refuted this report, which was also published by the Washington POST. However, if one bears in mind that according to a Pentagon spokesman seven U.S. naval ships have anchored in the sea of Oman--that is, in direct proximity to Iranian shores--then since November this denial has become worthless.

Tehran--Massive antigovernment demonstrations continue in Iran. Facts connected with daily increasing U.S. intervention in Iran's internal affairs, exposed in Tehran, have aroused a great deal of anger and revulsion among the demonstrators. Demonstrations continue in Tehran opposite the U.S. Embassy, and the demonstrators condemn U.S. policy. The slogan: "Yankees, Get Out of Iran!" can be seen on the walls of houses and can be read on hundreds of thousands of statements. Communications, railroad, power, mining and harbor workers and staff of domestic and foreign aviation companies are on strike. Oil fields and refineries have been closed down, and the government has rationed gasoline and fuel and greatly limited its consumption. For several hours a day power is cut, and the cost of foodstuffs and goods highly essential to the people is very high.

New York--News agencies report that fierce clashes have taken place in Sanandaj, Abadan, Rasht, Kermanshah, Khorramabad, Shiraz and other Iranian cities. In Shiraz demonstrators set fire to the premises of the U.S.-Iran cultural center.

Two Majlis deputies from Qazvin staged a sit-in strike in the Majlis building protesting injustice toward the anti-government demonstrations by the people of this city.

Attempts to solve the country's crisis through political maneuvers, including setting up a non-military government, have so far produced no results. According to the AP agency, Gholam-Hoseyn Sadiqi, the principal candidate for the prime ministership, has refused to form a government. Shahpur Bakhtiar, the well-known opposition personality, has said the shah has asked him to form a civilian government. However, Bakhtiar noted that before taking any decisions on the shah's proposal he will consult with the leaders of the National Front, which is in opposition to the regime.

In circumstances when the outlook for solving Iran's political crisis is becoming clearer [as heard] the United States is openly pinning its hopes on the extreme rightwing circles in the army command.

Analyzing the situation in Iran, the Lebanese paper AS-SAFIR wrote: Should the Iranian authorities' efforts to crush the massive demonstrations by the people come to nothing, the United States intends to encourage the military to stage a coup d'etat.

[An unattributed commentary in Moscow in Persian to Iran at 1630 GMT on 30 Dec says: "Dear listeners, large demonstrations in Iran do not stop even for a day. In recent days, the people have staged demonstrations not only in cities but also in small towns. The demonstrators demand the implementation of social and democratic reforms and the discontinuation of American interference in the country's affairs. The participants in the general strike which has paralyzed Iran's economic life have also made these demands.

["After the frustrated struggle by the shah to form a coalition civilian government under Sadiqi, a moderate, to replace the military government, the shah has now asked Shapur Bakhtiar, member of the National Front opposed to the regime, to do the same. Shapur Bakhtiar said he will consult other members of the National Front. But according to Karim Sanjabi, the National Front has refused to discuss his participation in this government.

["Washington, which is interested in preserving its economic, military and strategic position in Iran, gives all-round support to rescue the present regime in Iran. U.S. support has taken the form of interference in the internal affairs of the Iranian nation. About 60 officials of the CIA, the State Department, and other U.S. agencies have hurriedly arrived in Iran in order to find a way to end the current crisis. The CIA is taking an active part in the search for (?pro-American) men who could become members of the civilian government.

"In the meantime, reports have been received that the United States has prepared more dangerous plans for intervening in the events in Iran. UPI reported that the aircraft carrier 'Constellation' together with other destroyers have left the U.S. base in the Philippines. UPI pointed out that this fleet has left for Iran.

"Last month, the Soviet Union warned against all forms of intervention from abroad in Iranian affairs. Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in answering a PRAVDA correspondent's question, said that the USSR is opposed to outside intervention in Iranian affairs in whatever form or pretext it may be."]

31 Dec Situation Reports

ID311528Y Moscow TASS in English 1455 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD

[Text] New York, December 31, TASS--The Iranian capital is again rocked by demonstrations which have swept also all the main cities of the country. According to ASSOCIATED PRESS a big manifestation was held in Tabriz in the north east of the country, with demonstrators marching through the streets and holding a demonstration at the American Consulate under anti-government and anti-American slogans. The demonstration was dispersed by troops guarding the grounds of the consulate. The oppositionary National Front announced that a clash between demonstrators and the troops in Mashhad resulted in more than 100 deaths. The state radio described the situation in the city and also in Tabriz, Ardebil and Rashi as "verging on a rebellion." The ASSOCIATED PRESS agency underlines that anti-Americanism has been particularly pronounced in Iran since Washington announced its support for the shah's regime.

Clashes between troops and numerous demonstrations took place also in the capital, with army patrols using fire-arms. Many people were killed and wounded. A UPI correspondent points to the toughness of the position of the army command, who are ordering the troops to open fire on the demonstrators.

Crowds of people again took to the streets this morning in the capital. In the area of the Sanlavi Hospital, demonstrators carried on their shoulders the bodies of two doctors killed yesterday by soldiers when trying to attend to wounded people.

The funeral procession carried both anti-government and anti-American posters. Mobile army patrols today dispersed demonstrations in other districts as well. More than 100 teachers at Tehran University went on a hunger strike in protest against the closure of higher and secondary institutions of learning, and demanding the lifting of government control of the universities.

According to reports clashes resumed between demonstrators and troops in Mashhad, which in recent days became the scene of bloody events, with scores of civilians killed.

A UPI correspondent reports from Manila that a spokesman of the U.S. Navy, when asked to comment on reports about the aircraft carriers, Constellation and Midway leaving port and heading for Iranian shores, confirmed they will rendezvous on the high seas, but declined to divulge their route. Meanwhile it is not ruled out in Washington that the aircraft carriers may be needed off the shores of Iran for a demonstration of force and to make it clear that they might be used for interference under the pretext of evacuating American personnel from Iran, of which there are 40,000.

[An unattributed commentary in Moscow in Persian to Iran at 1630 GMT on 1 Jan says: "The first day of the new Christian year in Iran witnessed huge new demonstrations. Demonstrators are demanding that the regime be changed, social and democratic reforms be implemented and U.S. interference in the country's affairs be stopped. Demonstrations by the masses of the people are crushed with the utmost cruelty by the armed forces. According to foreign news agencies, the sound of machinegun and automatic fire could be heard today in Tehran and other cities. More than 80 people were killed among the demonstrators in Mashrad yesterday, while more than 2,000 people were injured. Hundreds were killed and injured also in Dezful.

["Meanwhile the shah of Iran has accepted the resignation of General Azhari, the head of a military government appointed early in November to end the people's demonstrations against the present regime. Until a civilian government is formed 'Ali Farzad, a deputy prime minister, will act as prime minister. The shah has assigned Shahpur Bakhtiar, an opposition political figure, to form a civilian government. The National Front has ousted him from its ranks and expelled him from its organization because he agreed to cooperate with the present regime.

["The CIA, State Department and other U.S. Government agents are actively involved in the current maneuvers to preserve the present regime. American news agencies report that Washington officials are actively considering sending U.S. warships to Iranian shores. At the same time the aircraft carriers Constellation and Midway, which have left their bases in the Philippines and Japan, will anchor in the Indian Ocean and await further developments in Iran. Meanwhile, the inspirers of gunboat diplomacy are looking for an excuse to justify armed intervention in Iran's internal affairs, and blatantly provocative means are being used, with their sharp edge directed against the Soviet Union.

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["The New York TIMES writes that, apart from materials published in Soviet papers about Iran, official sources have made no reference to any action by Moscow to compel the White House to consider sending aircraft carriers to the Persian Gulf. In this connection, PRAVDA says that, more than anything else, it becomes clear that the seditious plots against the Soviet Union aimed at justifying Washington's probable preconceived action against peace and the sovereign rights of nations."]

KUZNETSOV, OTHERS ATTEND BOUMEDIENE FUNERAL IN ALGIERS

LD291922Y Moscow TASS in English 1757 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Algiers, December 29, TASS--Today the Algerian people took leave of its loyal son, President of the Algerian Peoples' Democratic Republic, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council Houari Boumediene.

Numerous delegations from countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, socialist countries included, arrived in the Algerian capital for attending the president's funeral, which once again points to Houari Boumediene's high international prestige.

The state delegation of the USSR to the funeral is headed by alternate Politbureau member of the CPSU CC, First Vice President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Vasily Kuznetsov.

Kuznetsov Meets With Bitat

LD301354Y Moscow TASS in English 1314 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Algiers, December 30, TASS--There was a meeting here of alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Vice-President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Vasily Kuznetsov with Acting President of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic Rabi Bitat and member of the Revolutionary Council, coordinator of the armed forces B. Shadli.

During the conversation that was held in the atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, it was stressed that the Soviet Union continues its invariable course at the development and widening of all-round cooperation with the Algerian People's Democratic Republic which meets the interests of the peoples of both countries and helps strengthen universal peace.

Soviet Delegation Departs Algeria

LD301740Y Moscow TASS in English 1717 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, December 30, TASS--The Soviet state delegation led by alternate member of the Politbureau of the CPSU CC, First Vice President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Vasily Kuznetsov, who took part in the funeral of President of Algeria, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council Houari Boumediene, have left for home.

The Soviet representatives were seen off at the airport by members of the Algerian Government and other officials.

Returns to Moscow

LD010013Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] A Soviet delegation led by Vasily Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Politburo, has returned to Moscow after attending the funeral of President Houari Boumediene.

KOMSOMOL SENDS CONDOLENCES TO ALGERIAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION

LD301131Y Moscow TASS in English 0930 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 30, TASS--The Soviet Komsomol's Central Committee and the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR have expressed profound condolences over the premature death of the President, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic Houari Boumediene. Their message to the National Union of the Algerian Youth was published in the newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA today.

The message points out that the Soviet young people know Houari Boumediene as an active champion of the development and consolidation of the relations of friendship and all-round cooperation between the USSR and the Algerian People's Democratic Republic which are a firm foundation of close friendly links between the young people of the two countries.

In these days difficult for the Algerian people and the youth the Leninist Komsomol, the Soviet youth have reaffirmed once again their readiness to continue developing and deepening the friendly relations and fruitful cooperation with the National Union of Algerian Youth. "We are confident that these relations promote stronger cohesion of the ranks of the international democratic youth movement, of all anti-imperialist forces which come out for peace, national independence and social progress," the message stresses.

BEGIN REAFFIRMS ISRAELI 'IMPLACABILITY' OVER PALESTINIANS

LD301345Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1113 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

["Shameful Surrender"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, 30 December, TASS--Prime Minister Begin of Israel said again yesterday that he would never agree to the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

Addressing journalists in Jerusalem, he emphasized that Israel categorically rejects any plans to form such a state, since, he said, it would present "a threat to the existence of Israel." Begin again confirmed that the Israeli Government intends to continue implementing the program of building settlements on the West Bank of the Jordan and in the Gaza Strip. Under the Camp David accord, he said, we can only agree to grant "autonomy" to the Palestinians who live in these regions.

Thus Tel Aviv, relying on the support of the Zionist lobby in Washington, has yet again demonstrated its implacability and hinted clearly to its Egyptian partner in the separate deal that after the earlier concessions it expects new ones from him. Taking advantage of the weakness in Cairo's position, Israel is blatantly dictating its own terms, forcing the Egyptian leadership to a complete surrender and betrayal of the interests of the Arab people of Palestine. In the words of the Israeli premier, the only concession Tel Aviv might make is to implement the plan for what it terms "administrative self-rule" for the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip--which, as is known, has been rejected decisively by the Arab peoples as legitimizing Israel's occupation of these lands.

Cairo itself has apparently already reconciled itself to its humiliating role and is attempting at all costs to conclude a separate "peace" with Israel. According to reports from Egypt, Egyptian Foreign Minister B. Ghali has said that the Egyptian leadership is ready at any time to resume negotiations with the Israeli leaders with the aim of finalizing the separate deal as soon as possible. At hand is an obvious capitulation by Cairo to Tel Aviv's impudent demands.

Beirut, 30 December, TASS--The Egyptian-Israeli separate deal under U.S. auspices has been sharply criticized by the chairman of the National Progressive (Left) Party of Egypt, Khalid Muhyi ad-Din. Interviewed in the AL-WATAN AL-ARABI weekly, he said that the attempts to conclude a separate deal radically contradict the decisions of the Arab summit conferences and could not lead to a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Near East. The party chairman called for a representative inter-Arab conference to review the situation that has developed in the Near East as a result of As-Sadat's capitulationist actions.

ISRAEL TRYING TO CONSOLIDATE OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON

LD011354Y Moscow TASS in English 1245 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Beirut, January 1, TASS--The Israeli military is trying to consolidate the actual occupation of southern Lebanon. According to Lebanese press reports, Tel Aviv is hurriedly establishing training military camps for the formation of Lebanese conservative forces which align with Israel in pursuance of their separatist plans. At one of such camps, in Al-Majidiyah village, Israeli officers act as military training instructors. In the closing day of the past year, Lebanese newspapers report, there was active movement of Israeli army units in several sectors of the border zone.

ISRAELI WARSHIPS OPEN FIRE ON S. LEBANON 31 DECEMBER

LD011008Y Moscow TASS in English 0936 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Beirut, January 1, TASS--On New Year's Eve the Israeli military staged one more armed provocation against Lebanon. As Wafa news agency reports, Israeli warships fired on peaceful Palestinian refugee camps on the Lebanese coast to the south of Tyre. Lebanese coastal batteries opened retaliatory fire driving the Israeli ships away.

EGYPT'S 'NEW CAPITULATORY STEP' SHOWS 'TREACHERY'

LD292046Y Moscow TASS in English 2042 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] New York, December 29, TASS--A report from Israel repudiates once again As-Sadat's pretensions to the role of "the representative of all Arabs" in its separate bargaining with Tel Aviv and exposes the hypocrisy of his calls for "the Arab unity". The report comments on the statement by the Israeli foreign minister, Moshe Dayan, who speaking in the Knesset Commission said that he had received from the Egyptian prime minister, Mustafa Khalil, the assurances that Egypt will refuse to help Syria in case of a new conflict between Syria and Israel. The assurances obviously relate not only to the efforts of Syria to liberate its lands, but also to the possible acts of aggression by Israel against Syria. The new capitulatory step by the Egyptian leadership is in full conformity with the so-called "peace draft treaty" worked out by Egypt and Israel under the aegis of the USA. One of the clauses of the treaty says in fact that Cairo places its commitments to Israel above those to Arab states, including the sphere of joint defense. This is the fruit of the Egyptian leadership's policy of treachery. At the moment, the Egyptian leadership has completely degraded to anti-Arab positions and with full readiness performs the shameful part of defending the interests of imperialism and Zionism which to contrary [as received] to the Arab nations in the Middle East. Kuwait, December 29, TASS--The Kuwait TIMES published an article sharply criticising the capitulatory policy of Cairo. The policy of the present Egyptian leadership, stresses the newspaper, contradicts the resolutions of the conferences of the heads of state and government of the Arab countries, which were signed by As-Sadat in person.

EFFECT OF U.S.-PRC TIES ON SOUTHEAST ASIA EVALUATED

OW310352Y Moscow in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1230 GMT 28 Dec 78 OW

[Station observer's commentary]

[Excerpts] Commenting on the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, the Manila paper TODAY'S NEWS pointed out that the normalization of U.S.-China relations will pose a greater threat to peace.

It must be pointed out that the actual development of U.S.-China relations is a very natural outcome of international practice. However, under the current situation, one cannot but pay attention to what was pointed out by the Manila paper since the development of U.S.-China relations is based on militarist expansion and increasing pressure against Third World countries.

We all know that China has been trying very hard to obtain modern weapons, military technology and equipment from the United States. The New York TIMES pointed out: "If the United States decides to provide China with modern weapons whenever the latter seeks them, the United States will discover that China has an insatiable greed for modern weapons."

It must be pointed out that China has already received various kinds of U.S. technology and equipment which can be used in military operations, including electronic computers and transport machinery. The prospect that China may receive more modern weapons from the United States has created uneasiness among the Southeast Asian countries.

We all know that China has launched a campaign to pressure Vietnam politically, militarily and economically, regarding Vietnam as a major obstacle to its expansionist plots in Southeast Asia. Washington recently tried even harder to win Peking's support by pursuing a hostile policy toward Vietnam. Along with stalling the normalization of relations with Vietnam, the U.S. administration also began to criticize Vietnam's foreign policy for no reason whatsoever.

Washington's new pro-China stand over the Indochina situation is the logical result of several months of discussion between China and the United States on their policies in this region. Brzezinski, national security adviser for the U.S. President, paid a visit to Peking this summer. The Chinese leaders immediately asked the United States to support their anti-Vietnam policy. The Chinese leaders also suggested that Washington should take its time in normalizing relations with Vietnam.

In short, China has adopted all possible means of conniving with U.S. imperialism to carry out aggressive acts in Asia. It is very clear that the United States and China are working hand in glove to oppose peace and tranquility in Asia. The establishment of diplomatic relations between these two major powers has deepened the [words indistinct] of collusion between themselves and furthermore will pave the road to coordination of their expansionist policies in Asia. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh put it well by pointing out: "After normalizing its relations with the United States, China will try to make its anti-Vietnam policy more practical. Following the collusion between these two major powers, hegemonic interference will increase in Southeast Asia."

COMMENTATOR VIEWS LAO PEOPLE'S 1978 ACHIEVEMENTS

BK311147Y Moscow in Lao to Laos 1130 GMT 30 Dec 78 BK

[Valeriy Godunov commentary: "The Lao People are Entering the New Year"]

[Text] Although I am well aware that the traditional Lao New Year will not arrive for another 3 months, I think that the occasion of the international New Year is a good time for the Lao people to review their achievements. Moreover, not many days ago the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] celebrated its third anniversary. All this should provide sufficient grounds for evaluating the gains, opportunities and various obstacles in the cause of socialist construction.

On the occasion of the third anniversary of the establishment of the LPDR, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and the Lao Government, in the party appeal to the people and the army, clearly evaluated the situation in all spheres of daily life in Laos and set forth immediate tasks. All Soviet people, myself included, being interested in the life of the Lao people, have familiarized ourselves with this appeal.

In today's program, I should like to discuss how the Lao people see the development of their country in the past year. I know that the past year was a year of enormous difficulties for the Lao people. In the initial period of revolution it is natural that there should be many problems. There will naturally be difficulties in building a new life which involves the destruction of the old system. First of all, such difficulties are caused by the resistance of the reactionaries, who are attempting to safeguard the old system. The reactionaries always believe that by trying to destroy the new system they can succeed in preventing it being fully established. This is a tactic they will never abandon as long as they have the support of imperialism and the international reactionaries. But this tactic is bound to be defeated. That the popular democratic system exists in Laos is testimony to this fact.

The popular democratic system has not only succeeded in countering the sabotage activities of the internal and external reactionaries as well as serious natural disasters, but has also consolidated and strengthened its own foundations. This clearly shows the stability of the popular democratic system built by the Lao people under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist party--the LPRP.

Over the past year, the political situation at home and the international position of Laos have been consolidated to a considerable degree. Furthermore, the national defense effort has been improved, despite the fact that enemy forces in the northern part have not renounced their schemes to sabotage the national unity among the Lao people and that the reactionary circles on the other side of the Mekong River are still conducting sabotage activities against the Lao people.

What warrants the Lao people's confidence in the strength of the new system and the revolution in Laos can be seen in the statement issued by the LPDR Foreign Ministry spokesman on Lao-Thai relations. Even though the Thai reactionary, militarist circles have resorted to provocative acts, the Lao side affirmed its readiness to promote a fraternal relationship with Thailand.

The international position of the LPDR has been further consolidated. The activities of the propaganda circles of the imperialists and reactionaries in Asia to create suspicion about the intentions of the Lao government and people have been defeated.
[paragraph continues]

The LPDR and the SRV honorably represent the peace-loving foreign policies of the various socialist countries. Should it prove necessary to defend their cause of peace and security, the two countries are determined to counter the activities of the imperialists, international reactionaries and other provocateurs.

In discussing the stability of the Lao popular democratic regime, which is countering external enemies and natural disasters, I should like to mention the fine achievements recorded by the Lao people in their thorough transformation activities. It can be said that when measures were taken concerning the industrial, financial and foreign trade branches, the urban-dwelling exploiters lost their foothold. Furthermore, when the LPRP Central Committee Bureau adopted a resolution in June on the setting up of collective agricultural cooperatives, the rural exploiters also lost their position.

The establishment of collective agricultural cooperatives [words indistinct] new type of relations between men and the elimination of the class distinction between the oppressors and the oppressed. The Soviet people welcome with great satisfaction the figures on the setting up of collective agricultural cooperatives, made public in the appeal issued by the LPRP Central Committee and the LPDR Government on the occasion of the third anniversary of the founding of the LPDR. We know that collective agricultural cooperatives have been set up in more than 1,000 villages. Regarding this matter, the Lao people are following the path taken by the various socialist countries, which are using agricultural cooperatives as a means to increase agricultural production and improve the living conditions of the people, particularly the peasants.

We are greatly satisfied with the success of the LPDR in its cultural revolution. At present, as many as 65 percent of the people have learned to read and write, while the numbers of schools and students have considerably increased. The various socialist countries have warmly accepted several thousand Lao students at their educational institutes. These socialist countries allow the Lao students to use every facility in the educational, scientific, technical and cultural spheres. The Soviet Union, Vietnam, Cuba, Bulgaria and other socialist countries are doing everything to enable the Lao people, who are engaging in socialist construction, to gain experience and knowledge and to obtain sufficient machinery and technology. Moreover, these countries want the Lao people to share their successes and, when necessary, will join the Lao people in defending their country and fighting enemy aggression, relying on the strength of the solidarity among the socialist countries, as they did during the period of resistance in Laos.

CAMBODIAN FRONT'S FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT DRAWS PRAISE

LD291934Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1500 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Kampuchea's United National Salvation Front has issued a statement on its foreign policy. Here is a report from our correspondent in Indochina, Leonid Krichevskiy:

The formation of the United National Front in Kampuchea marks an important stage in the struggle being waged by the patriotic forces against the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime. Broad sections of the population are consolidating around the front, which has become one real exponent of national interests. The formation of the front and its recently published declaration attract sympathy and support all over the world. The only exception is Peking, where the reaction is hostile in the extreme. This shows who Peking is siding with-- with its Phnom Penh henchmen, who support its great-power hegemonistic aspirations in Southeast Asia.

The reactionary Pol Pot-Ieng Sary group Peking supports has turned Kampuchea into a concentration camp. It has committed a grave crime against the Vietnamese people and against peace in Southeast Asia.

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The United Front's foreign policy declaration shows that it intends to promote peace and security in Southeast Asia, to put an end to the adventurous activity of the Phnom Penh reactionaries and restore respect for Kampuchea in the world.

Friendship and cooperation with the socialist and developing countries are an important line in the Front's foreign policy, which meets the interests of the Kampuchean people and their neighbors. This policy also meets the interests of peace and security in Southeast Asia.

VIETNAMESE SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIAN FRONT REPORTED

LD311202Y Moscow TASS in English 1148 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Hanoi, December 31, TASS--The Kampuchean people's just struggle under the banner of the Kampuchean United Front for National Salvation (KUFNS) vividly illustrates its role as the sole genuine representative of the Kampuchean people, says the statement issued here by the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF). The KUFNS foreign-policy course is an active factor of peace, friendship and stability in Indochina and in the whole of South-East Asia. It fully opposes the bellicose policy of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique that betrayed the Kampuchean people's interests in order to satisfy international reaction's plans.

Proceeding from the fervent aspiration to build an independent country in the conditions of peace, friendship and cooperation with the people of Kampuchea as well as the peoples of the other countries of South-East Asia and the whole world, the Vietnamese people ardently welcomes and fully supports the KUFNS foreign policy, emphasizes the statement of the VFF Central Committee.

SRV STATEMENT ON SPRATLY ARCHIPELAGO, PARACEL ISLANDS NOTED

LD301413Y Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

["Vietnam's Firm Stand"--TASS Headline]

[Text] Hanoi, December 30, TASS--The Spratly Archipelago, as well as the Paracel Islands, is part of Vietnam's territory, says a statement circulated here today by a representative of the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The statement fully refutes allegations of a representative of the PRC Foreign Ministry of December 29 who asserted that these two groups of islands belong to China.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the statement says, reaffirms Vietnam's sovereignty over the Spratly Archipelago and the Paracel Islands. The government and people of Vietnam are determined to uphold territorial integrity of their country. All actions for prospecting and development of resources or for seizure by any country of the Spratly Archipelago and the Paracel Islands, as well as waters adjoining to them, are illegal, as this is indicated in the statement of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam of May 12, 1977.

USSR-DPRK FRIENDSHIP CHAIRMAN GREETES KOREAN PEOPLE

SK012305Y Moscow in Korean to Korea 0930 GMT 31 Dec 78 SK

[New Year Message by "Comrade (Karasov)," Chairman of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society]

[Text] Comrade (Karasov) said as follows: Dear friends in Korea, greeting the New Year of 1979, in the name of the members of the Central Committee of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society and the thousands of activists of the society, I extend heartfelt congratulations to working people of the DPRK and wish them new success in the future and [word indistinct].

Looking back at 1978, I can confidently say that it was a year in which the friendship between the USSR and Korea was further consolidated and our cooperation in the entire sectors of economy and culture was further expanded. In 1978, the Soviet Union constantly provided technological assistance to the DPRK in constructing a series of important objects of the national economy. The equal and reciprocal circulation of commodities was expanded, advanced experiences and production (?results) were exchanged broadly, and direct contact was consolidated in the sector of [word indistinct] of our two countries.

Comrade (Karasov) went on to say as follows: I note with pleasure that our activists and members of the Central Committee of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society contributed duly to developing and enhancing the relationship between the Soviet Union and Korea. We commemorated the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society, which is one of the most popular mass organizations in the Soviet Union. (?Affiliated) organizations have been formed in the Ukrainian, Kazakhstan and Armenian republics. More than 350 industrial establishments, (kolkhozes), sovkhoses, business organs, institutes of science and schools are members of this society.

Members of the Central Committee and local committees of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society and activists of the society conduct many activities to introduce to the Soviet social circles the successes attained by the fraternal Korean people in socialist construction and their struggle for the reunification of their country.

In 1978 we commemorated meaningful days in the (?history) of relations between the Soviet Union and Korea. The month of friendship was observed in the Soviet Union commemorating the 30th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK. In this connection, nights of friendship, report meetings by representatives of public circles, exhibitions of Korean books and photography and film shows were held and arranged in Moscow, Leningrad, Vladivostok, Alma Ata and other cities.

The Soviet-Korean Friendship Society actively participated in the month of solidarity with the Korean people's struggle for withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea and the reunification of the country on a peaceful and democratic basis.

As in the past, the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society had close contacts with activists of the Korea-Soviet Friendship Society. In accord with the signed agreement, we exchanged groups of activists in every period and sent various information materials.

Comrade (Karasov) went on to say as follows: In conclusion, I express confidence that we and the comrades in People's Korea will continue the work to expand the ties between the working peoples of our two countries and to consolidate the traditional friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Korea.

Dear friends, I again extend sincere congratulation to you on the New Year and wish you new success in socialist construction and in your struggle for national reunification of the country, as well as great happiness in life.

SOVIET-KOREAN FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION IN 1978 REVIEWED

SK310551Y Moscow in Korea to Korea 1140 GMT 29 Dec 78 SK

[Unattributed talk: "Recollection of Most Rewarding Events in the Activities of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society in 1978"]

[Text] Let us recollect the most rewarding events in the friendship and cooperative activities between the USSR and DPRK as we see out the year of 1978.

It was in January that the Soviet party and government delegation led by Comrade Kunayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and first secretary of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee, made an official friendship visit to the DPRK. The delegation met and had a talk with Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the KWP Central Committee and president of the DPRK in Pyongyang. It delivered to him during the meeting a personal letter from Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

In the talks with the DPRK party and government representatives, which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere and a practical manner, they discussed issues regarding further strengthening and expanding the traditional friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties, governments and peoples. They also exchanged views on issues of mutual interest..

In February, the Government of the DPRK awarded orders and medals to 240 Soviet technicians who cooperated in the construction and operation of the new workshops in the Kimchaek steel complex.

Vice president of the Republic, Comrade Kang Yang-uk, having awarded orders and medals to the Soviet technicians in Chongjin, kindly pointed out the devoted endeavors by the Soviet people, who fulfilled their duties in Korea based on proletarian internationalism. He also noted that the Soviet assistance serves as an ardent encouragement to the Korean people.

The Kimchaek steel complex is one of the 55 industrial enterprises in Korea which has been rehabilitated and reconstructed through Soviet economic and technical cooperation.

In March, the 29th anniversary of the conclusion of the treaty on the economic and cultural cooperation between the Soviet Union and the DPRK was observed. Reporting at the celebration meeting held by members of the various social circles in Moscow, deputy chairman of the Central Committee of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society, Comrade (Alexandrov) noted that this treaty has served as a milestone in the cooperation between the USSR and DPRK. The treaty has been the principal basis on which relations between the two nations in economy, science, technology, culture and other sectors have developed.

In April, a DPRK League of Socialist Working Youth (LSWY) delegation headed by Comrade (Nam Si-han), deputy chairman of the Central Committee of the LSWY of Korea, attended the 18th meeting of the (?Komsomol) in Moscow, along with delegations from many other nations.

In his address, he said as follows: [Begin recording] We, considering the friendship and unity with the Soviet people very precious, will further intensify the solidarity and cooperation with the Komsomol on the international stage. [paragraph continues]

I am convinced that the traditional friendship and cooperative relations already existing between the youth of our two nations will be further solidified and developed based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

Last, I wish great successes in the future struggle by our [word indistinct]. [applause]
[end recording]

In May, a Soviet Science Academy delegation led by its chairman, (Emanuel), visited the DPRK. Scientists of the two nations discussed issues of mutual interest and questions concerning further development of the cooperation between the members of the science sectors of the USSR and DPRK.

In June, the month of solidarity with the Korean people's struggle for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea and the peaceful reunification of the nation on a democratic basis was observed in the Soviet Union. During the month rallies and meetings were held in the union republics and many regions and cities. All who spoke on these occasions made note of the DPRK Government's constructive proposals for normalizing the situation on the Korean peninsula and solving the Korean question peacefully.

At a Soviet-Korea friendship meeting held at Moscow's (Priesru) plant during the month, comrade Kim Chae-pong, DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the USSR, said as follows: [begin recording] Taking this opportunity, I would like to express deep gratitude to the soviet party and government and the fraternal Soviet people for their support and solidarity with the people's just cause of national reunification. Today the Soviet people are scoring great successes in their struggle to implement the 10th 5-Year Plan put forth at the 25th Congress of the CPSU. Our people are truly joyful over the successes of the Soviet people and wish them greater success in the future. Our people cherish the relations of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet people, which were cemented and developed through the two countries' joint struggle against imperialism and for the victory of the cause of socialism. We will make very effort to strengthen and develop the longstanding good relations between us for the mutual interests of the two peoples. [end recording]

In July, we observed the 17th anniversary of the conclusion of the Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the USSR and the DPRK. The conclusion of the historic agreement became a cornerstone for the promotion and the development of overall relations between the USSR and the DPRK and an important instrument for peace and security in the Far East. During the same month we observed another significant occasion--the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet-Korea Friendship Society. Today the society promotes informal relations between the two countries. It has collective members consisting of some 350 plants, kolkhozes and sovkhozes and construction sites and maintains local chapters in RSFSR, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Turkmenia.

In August, the Soviet people, along with the DPRK working people, observed the 33rd anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese imperialist rule. The day of 15 August 1945 marked a meaningful day in the history of our people and the history of the fraternal friendship between our two peoples. On that unforgettable day, the Soviet Army crushed the imperialist aggressive troops in Korea and accordingly, brought freedom and national independence to the Korean people who had dedicated themselves to the struggle for national liberation.

In September, we observed the 30th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK. On the occasion, Comrades Brezhnev and Kosygin, in their congratulatory messages to Comrades Kim Il-song and Yi Chong-ok, wrote in part as follows: The Soviet Union highly regards the relations of fraternal friendship and cooperation between the two countries, two parties and (two peoples, cemented through) their joint struggle against forces of imperialism, reaction, aggression and war and for the construction of a new society. It makes all available efforts to further develop the relations on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and firmly supports the DPRK demand that U.S. troops should withdraw from South Korea and that conditions favorable to Korea's independent and peaceful reunification be provided.

At the events held in the DPRK to celebrate the anniversary of its founding, a Soviet party and state delegation led by Comrade Matchanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, took part. The Soviet delegates were present at the Pyongyang celebration meetings, Pyongyang working people's rally and other events.

In connection with the 30th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, the month of Soviet-Korean friendship was observed in September in our country. During the month, rallies, nights for Soviet-Korean friendship, and photo exhibitions showing achievements in socialist construction in the DPRK were held in such places as Moscow, Leningrad, Siberia, the Far East, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, Turkmenia and (Ussurisk). In addition, Korean films shown during the Korean film week were greatly welcome.

At the meeting held by representatives of social circles in Moscow to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, Comrade (Karasov), chairman of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society and [words indistinct], made a report in which he said in part as follows: [Recording in Russian fading into Korean] On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, the Soviet people wish the fraternal Korean people new victory in their struggle for the construction of a socialist society and the peaceful reunification of the nation on a democratic basis. They express their confidence that the relations between the two countries based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism will be strengthened and develop in the mutual interests of the two peoples and [words indistinct]. [end recording]

In October, a plan for cooperation between the USSR and DPRK in the medical sector was signed. This plan is undoubtedly of help to the medical practitioners of both the Soviet Union and Korea for the successful implementation of their important and responsible tasks.

In November, the 61st anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution was observed. This Soviet national holiday was also celebrated in the DPRK. On the occasion of the anniversary, a USSR-DPRK friendship week and an exhibition of Soviet posters were held in the People's Republic. Soviet movies were shown in Pyongyang, Wonsan and many other cities of the Republic. To mark the 61st anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the Northern Russian People's Chorus toured the DPRK and their performances were given warm acclamation. Now you will hear the songs by the chorus. [recorded songs]

During all of 1978, USSR-DPRK weeks have been observed by representatives of the parties, trade unions, youth and women's organizations, [word indistinct], athletic champions and tourists of both the Soviet Union and the DPRK.

In this review of the year 1978, we have presented most brilliant events of friendship and cooperation between our two nations. We are confident that the decisive and fraternal relations between the USSR and DPRK have been further solidified, as we recollect the days of the past. Dear friends in Korea, as we greet the New Year of 1979, we wish successes, happiness and good health in your work and life.

TASS REPORTS JAPANESE STATEMENT CONDEMNING PRC NUCLEAR TESTS

LD271844Y Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, December 27, TASS--The Japanese Government has condemned the nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere conducted by China on December 14. The nuclear blast was made at a time when the pollution of the atmosphere and seas is a source of grave concern in the world, says the statement by the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

PRC REQUEST FOR LOAN FROM JAPAN SAID FOR 'MILITARIZATION'

LD021020Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0130 GMT 2 Jan 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Valeriy Kosovan]

[Text] AFP reports from Tokyo that China has officially approached Japan to request a long-term loan of almost \$36 billion. The agency quotes an article in the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI which points out that the Chinese leaders intend to use this money to finance their widely advertised so-called program of four modernizations. According to the Peking leaders, this program is aimed at putting the country among the highly developed powers.

It is, however, no secret that the backbone of the program is a course of accelerated development of the war industry--the militarization of China. It will be interesting to see how Japan reacts to China's request, for the Japanese Government cannot but know what China wants the money for. It is hardly in the interests of Japan to aid the arming of China, which has entrenched itself in foreign territories and which preaches the inevitability of a new world war.

ROK EXPECTED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH PRC

LD301835Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Yevgeniy Grachev]

[Text] The South Korean regime has embarked on a campaign which it calculates will lead to the establishment of trade and full diplomatic links with China. The South Korean authorities are plainly following the example of Washington, which has normalized its relations with Peking. They are sure, the Washington POST reports from Seoul, that Peking will respond to this step by South Korea.

One can ask: How come such certainty? Evidence of this is furnished by China's own policies on the international scene, ganging up as it has with the most reactionary regimes in the world today and playing, according to its ideas of expediency, all--so to speak--cards which would suit the hegemonistic and militaristic aims of the Peking leadership.

III. 2 Jan 79

U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

N 1

ROMANOV-LED DELEGATION TAKES PART IN CUBAN FESTIVITIES

Departs Moscow

LD290928Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] A Soviet party-government delegation led by Comrade Romanov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and first secretary of the Leningrad Obkom, has left Moscow for Havana to take part in festivities marking the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution. At the airport the delegation was seen off by Pelshe, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo; Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; and other officials.

Arrives Havana

LD301104Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 30 Dec 78 LD

[Text] A Soviet party-state delegation has arrived in Havana to attend the festivities celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution. It includes Romanov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and first secretary of the Leningrad Obkom, as head of the delegation; Ruben, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet; and Tolubeyev, USSR ambassador to Cuba. [Moscow TASS in English at 0815 GMT on 30 December adds: At the International Jose Marti Airport the delegation were welcomed by Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, first deputy chairman of the State Council and the Council of Ministers of the republic, and other officials.]

RAUL CASTRO RECEIVES SOKOLOV-LED MILITARY DELEGATION

LD311829Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The Second Secretary of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, First Vice President of the State Council and Council of Ministers of the republic, Minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, Army General Raul Castro received Sokolov, marshal of the Soviet Union and USSR first deputy defense minister and those accompanying him, who have been in Havana on an official visit. The Soviet military delegation led by Marshal Sokolov laid wreaths at the foot of the monument to the Cuban national hero, Jose Marti, and also visited the Museum of the Revolution and the Granma memorial complex. The Soviet guests called at the Macimo Gomez Military Academy, where they acquainted themselves with the process of instruction and visited the lecture rooms and training grounds.

BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN GREET CASTRO ON REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

LD010003Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1830 GMT 31 Dec 78 LD

[Text of greetings message from Leonid Brezhnev and Aleksey Kosygin to Fidel Castro on the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution]

[Text] Moscow--We transmit the text of greetings from the Soviet leaders:

To Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, chairman of the State Council and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

III. 2 Jan 79

N 2

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

On the historic 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution we send you, the Cuban communists, all working people of Cuba our warm, fraternal greetings.

The further 1 January 1959, the day on which popular revolution won in Cuba, recedes into the depths of history, the more vividly the Cuban people's revolutionary achievements present themselves to the world; the more deeply the significance of this event for the destinies of the liberation movement in Latin America and the whole world is revealed.

The Cuban revolution, the birth of the first socialist state in the Western Hemisphere, has in practice shown the oppressed and exploited masses the capabilities of a people who have become masters of their own country. You had to build a new society under a constant imperialist threat, overcoming the difficult consequences of the colonial past. But in what other Latin American country has such significant social and cultural progress been achieved; where have so many new enterprises, electric power stations, roads, schools, hospitals, well-appointed housing districts, scientific, cultural and sports centers been built! The spirit of creation and constructive enthusiasm aroused by the revolution, the high patriotic sentiments of the Cuban people, was combined with devotion to the grand idea of the internationalist solidarity of working people throughout the world with the new Cuba.

The Cuban revolution and its accomplishment have demonstrated with new force how important the might and cohesion of the socialist states, the unity of the international communist and workers movement, all democratic forces are in the historical scale. The attempts of international reaction and imperialism to strangle the Island of Freedom by blockades, sabotage and intervention have proved powerless in the face of the steadfast Cuban people who embarked on a defense of their revolution in the face of international solidarity with Cuba.

The Cuban revolution has had a deep influence on the development of the peoples' liberation struggle. With boundless energy Cuba struggles, for the implementation of peace, equality, social justice, the right of all people to determine their fate freely and independently. All this has gained a high political and moral authority for Cuba in the international arena.

On this notable day the Soviet people express their sincere respect to the builders of socialist Cuba--the workers, peasants, intelligentsia, students and soldiers. We pay tribute to the merits of the militant vanguard of the Cuban people--the Communist Party of Cuba, and we cordially greet Comrade Fidel Castro, the inspiration and leader of the Cuban revolution, a great friend of the land of the soviets. With great satisfaction we note today that in the past 20 years Soviet-Cuban friendship has grown, strengthened and become richer. Our parties and peoples have learned to understand and appreciate one another and to labor and struggle hand in hand in the name of the common cause.

We wish you, dear Comrade Fidel Castro and all the fraternal Cuban people, new achievements in resolving the tasks laid down by the First Congress of the Cuban Communist Party and further successes in building socialism on Cuban soil.

GAINS SINCE REVOLUTION, TIES WITH USSR HAILED

LD011648Z Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Today is the 20th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution. Our correspondent Vladimir Korotkov reports from Havana:

Twenty years is a very short time in the history of any state. For Cuba, these two decades have become an epoch-making turning point. They have been full of events and strenuous labor as well as struggle against the imperialist blockade and for the radical remaking of life in the interests of the ordinary workers.

Many Western observers who soberly assess the facts call the changes that have taken place in Cuba a miracle. Of course, there are no miracles in the world. However, Cuba's present-day situation is another eloquent confirmation of what socialism brings to people.

There is no need here to cite figures and comparisons indicating the country's rapid industrial development and the considerable step forward taken by the sugar industry, a leading branch of the economy. Suffice it to say that it is precisely in recent years that the country has obtained a record harvest.

The main result of these 20 years undoubtedly lies in what the revolution has brought for the individual and what the new social structure has given him: dignity, equality, freedom, the right to work and leisure, confidence in the future and peace of mind concerning the destiny of his children.

Of course, there are still a number of difficulties remaining. The Cubans do not hide them by any means. However, in Cuba there is not one unemployed or hungry person; in Cuba there is not one child without a school; in Cuba there are no illiterate, destitute or homeless people. There are fine new schools in Cuba. In these years more than 700 kindergartens have opened; more than 100,000 children of workers and peasants study at institutes and universities, and they study free of charge. Cuba has built dozens of hospitals and outpatient departments where all types of medical treatment, medicine and the most complex operations are free. The workers and peasants also receive their apartments in new apartment buildings free of charge. All Cubans are rightly proud of these gains of the revolution.

The Cubans highly assess the friendly and fraternal relations linking their homeland with the peoples of the socialist community and primarily with the Soviet Union. On the fronts of buildings and balconies and on the streets and squares of the Cuban capital, banners flutter: the white-blue Cuban and the red banner of the land of the soviets; they are always alongside each other. They have been put up by the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution, which has decorated the city for the festive anniversary. Over 5 million Cubans are members of this largest public organization in the country--that is, virtually the entire adult population of the country. For every Cuban the cause of the revolution is his vital cause, the cause of his entire life. For that reason today is a festive occasion for every Cuban family, the biggest and most joyful festive occasion.

ALLEGATIONS OF SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM FALSE, PROVOCATIVE

LD291946Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1415 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 29 December--TASS commentator Aleksandr Bokhorko writes:

The London "Institute of Jewish Affairs" recently published a malicious anti-Soviet lampoon. The authors tried to prove that the Soviet Union is supposedly conducting... "A constant anti-Semitic campaign." Naturally, no proof or facts supporting this falsehood are cited in the report for the simple reason that there are none at all.

The whole world knows that from the very first days of its existence to the present the Soviet Union has taken a firm stand against nationalism, racism and chauvinism and that it is forbidden by Soviet law to propagandize these things. This consistent policy of the land of the Soviets has been reflected in the basic law of the USSR. Article 36 of the Soviet Constitution, in particular, states: "USSR citizens of different races and nationalities have equal rights... Any direct or indirect restriction of rights, the establishment of direct or indirect advantages for citizens on a racial or national basis, just like the propagation of racial or national exclusiveness, enmity or disdain--are punished by law."

The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on social, humanitarian and cultural questions gave an unequivocal assessment to the militant racist ideology of Zionism in October 1975. The resolution adopted by it declares Zionism "a form of racism and racial discrimination." The UN members reached this conclusion when they discussed Israel's specific actions in the Near East which proceed directly from the basic postulates of Zionist ideology.

On the international arena the Soviet Union opposes Zionism, chauvinism and racism in keeping with its unchanging policy and the decision of the world community. This consistent course is bringing out the malice in Zionist circles. Using the Western mass media organs, which are subservient to them, they accuse those who oppose Zionism, who condemn Tel Aviv's aggressive course and who consider just the Arab demands for the restoration of those lands occupied by the Israelis, of anti-Semitism. This is exactly how the authors of this "report" by the London "Institute of Jewish Affairs" acted. To put it bluntly, their scheme is provocative.

COLLECTION OF GROMYKO'S SELECTED WORKS PUBLISHED

LD282142Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1648 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--A collection of selected speeches and articles by Andrey Gromyko, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR foreign minister, entitled "Vo Imya Torzhevstva Leninskoy Vneshney Politiki" ("In the Name of the Triumph of Leninist Foreign Policy"), has been brought out. The book includes his speeches at the 23d and 24th CPSU congresses, his speeches at UN sessions and his articles which were published in the press.

The collection analyzes topical international problems and cardinal questions of the foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state. A great deal of attention is devoted to the development of the world socialist system and to deepening fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation among the socialist states.

DEVELOPMENT OF STRIP MINES IN SIBERIA HAS GREAT POTENTIAL

LD291734Y Moscow TASS in English 1725 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Leningrad, December 29, TASS--Beriozovskiy strip mine, Euro-Asia's largest, with a capacity of 50 million tons of coal a year, will serve as a basis for a giant power engineering centre in southern Siberia. The rapid development of the Kanskkoachinsky coal deposit, stretching for several hundred kilometers along the Sayan foothills, is envisaged by the decisions of the 25th Congress of the CPSU. The first open-cast mine, Beriozovskiy, designed by engineers from Leningrad, will be operational in early 1980's.

A TASS correspondent was told by Vladimir Mikhin, director of the mine-designing institute, that the extracted coal will be burnt at the nearby thermal power station. The station will be of unusual capacity--6,400 thousand kw. Several more similar strip mines are to be built in the deposit area.

According to specialist, superpowerful thermal power stations, built in that area, will produce very cheap electricity, which is needed for power-consuming enterprises of ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, chemical, oil and paper-and-pulp industries, now under construction in Siberia. Ashes and slugs will be used in the production of building materials and fertilizers. The big deposits of solid fuel allow to use Siberian oil and gas for chemical processing without impeding power engineering.

BREZHNEV GREETES SIBERIAN GES CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

LD191830Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev has sent greetings to all participants in the construction of the Sayan-Shushenskoye GES. The greetings say: Dear comrades, your report on the bringing into operation of the first set of generators with a capacity of 640,000 kilowatts of the Sayan-Shushenskoye GES was received with profound excitement and gratitude in the CPSU Central Committee. Accept my cordial congratulations on this outstanding achievement.

I recall with pleasure our meetings in Krasnoyarsk and our conversations on the creation of a reliable energy basis for the formation of the Sayan territorial production complex. Today we may say with pride that as a result of your truly heroic labor the second giant GES on the Yenisey has begun to work for communism. Situated near this hydroelectric power station is the ancient village of Shushenskoye, which is closely linked with the name of Vladimir Ilich Lenin, dear to every Soviet person. It was here that he drew up the ideological basis for the Marxist party in Russia, substantiated the need for a fighting alliance between the working class and the peasantry, and foretold the proletariat's leading role in the revolutionary movement. One of the world's biggest hydroelectric power stations, with a design capacity of 6.4 million kilowatts, equal to five Goelro [State Commission for the Electrification of Russia] plans, will be a shining example of the implementation of Leninist ideas.

It is remarkable, the greetings stress, that this construction project has given new examples of a communist attitude to labor. The whole country today knows of the cooperation between 28 Leningrad enterprises and organizations and the builders of the Sayan-Shushenskoye GES.

The party Central Committee keeps a close eye on the development of this cooperation, because it helps reduce construction time and insure a high quality of work. Practice has convincingly shown that this approach to the fulfillment of national economic tasks gives the greatest effect. It is enough to say that the volume of concrete which had to be laid in the dam before the commissioning of the first set was able to be reduced by 3 million cubic meters, which correspondingly advanced by 2 years the introduction of the hydrostation's operations.

The labor friendship between the Siberians and the Leninigraders, cemented by the great organizational and political work of the Krasnoyarsk Kraykom and Leningradskiy Obkom as well as the purposeful activity of the party, trade union and Komsomol organizations of the collectives taking part in the construction of the hydroelectric station, has considerably enriched the experience of socialist competition and will find further development in the implementation of the most important national economic programs.

I am sure that the glorious Krasnoyarskgesstroy [Krasnoyarsk GES construction], collective tempered by the difficult Siberian conditions, will do everything possible to speedily complete construction of the Sayan-Shushenskoye GES to full capacity and to implement the tasks of the 10th 5-Year Plan.

In conclusion Leonid Ilich Brezhnev wished all the builders good health, happiness, and new labor successes in implementing the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress.

TYUMEN-URALS GAS PIPELINE COMPLETED, BRANCHLINE STARTED

LD291549Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 78 p 2 LD

[Text] Tyumen, 21 December, TASS--The last seam has been welded on the Vyngapur-Chelyabinsk pipeline. Fieldworkers have begun filling the new steel mainline with natural gas. The 1,420 mm diameter pipeline links the north Tyumen deposits with the Urals by the shortest path.

The construction workers took only 18 months to cut the 1,500 km underground path. The components of success were the experience accumulated during the construction of large pipelines and the construction workers' labor heroism.

The Urengoy deposit situated near the Arctic Circle will be plugged into the gas mainline next year. Construction of the line's northern arm has already begun.

'NONPRODUCTIVE' WORKERS SALARIES INCREASED 1 JAN

LD291118Y Moscow TASS in English 0946 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 29, TASS--The salaries of workers in education, health services, culture, trade, community services of the USSR are being increased on an average by 23-30 percent as of January 1st with prices remaining stable. Payments to them for length of service are being increased, too.

This means implementing fully the decree on the increase of salaries to teachers, sales people, doctors and other workers in so-called non-productive branches of economy. The implementation was started two years ago from areas of Siberia, the Far East and the north.

It will be completed in the new year when the wage increase is applied to workers of these categories all over the USSR territory. Altogether, incomes of 31 million people increase within three years.

The increase of incomes of doctors, teachers and workers in trade has a bearing in reality on a far greater range of people for it promotes the improvement of the system of medical services, education and trade from which the entire Soviet population gains directly.

The steady raising of the level of the life of the Soviet people was and remains the main direction of Soviet plans in near future and as a long-term perspective. The major social program adopted by the 25th Congress of the CPSU envisages the implementation of broad measures aimed at enhancing prosperity of the Soviet people, at improving the conditions of their work and rest.

As a result of the implementation of these measures, real incomes of the Soviet people are rising with every year. They will increase by 20 percent over the entire Tenth Five-Year period, (1976-80).

CHEMICAL PLANTS OPEN WITH FRG, FRENCH U.S. COOPERATION

LD291518Y Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 29, TASS--TASS correspondent reports: A plant for storage and processing of chemicals built in the town of Ventpils, the Soviet Republic of Latvia in the Baltics, is an example of mutually advantageous Soviet-American economic relations. A large facility for production of liquid compound fertilizers was completed here today.

The raw material for the plant, superphosphoric acid, is supplied to the USSR by the U.S. Occidental Petroleum Corporation in the return for ammonia supplied by the USSR. The Occidental Petroleum Corporation took part in the construction of the Ventpils plant on the basis of a compensation agreement.

The first section of a large capacity chemical complex went into operation in Odessa. It will annually produce 450 thousand tons of liquid ammonia a year. A production and transportation chemical complex is being created there under a contract with the Occidental Petroleum Corporation. The new Soviet enterprise produced the first consignment of ammonia today. Soviet, American, French and German specialists cooperate fruitfully at the construction. Firms of the USA, France and the FRG provided technological equipment on a compensation basis.

The complex is equipped with deep-water wharves. The station for biological purification of effluent precludes the possibility of chemical products being discharged into the sea.

MORE THRIFT NEEDED IN ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY

LD291015 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow TRUD in Russian 21 December 1978 publishes on page 2 a 1,500-word article by N. Simochatov, chairman of the Electric Power Stations and Electrical Engineering Industry Workers Trade Union Central Committee, under the heading "For a Strict Policy of Thrift." Describing the Soviet Union's achievements in constructing power stations, Simochatov emphasizes the need to reduce fuel consumption at these stations by reducing fuel expenditure per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated, introducing more efficient equipment at power stations, and insuring that the coal used by power stations is in good condition. He also criticizes shortcomings in the provision of housing and other facilities for the industry's workers.